



Thursday, August 2, 2018

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# MPs' anger over failure to bring in tougher sentences KILLER DRIVERS - STILL NO ACTION

Report by Peter Madeley

**THE Government has been accused of dragging its feet over bringing in tougher sentences for killer drivers.**

Ministers announced in October that drivers who kill in the most serious cases of dangerous and careless driving would face life sentences.

But the legislation has still not been brought in, prompting fury among Black Country MPs.

It follows a campaign by The Chronicle's sister newspaper Express & Star urging the Government to introduce stronger sentences.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is one of 70 MPs to have written to the Justice Secretary calling for action but the Government have failed to confirm a date for the change.

The Labour MP said: "Residents in Dudley often get in touch with concerns about road safety.

"Just last year there was a fatal accident in Gornal, and people tell me they are worried it will happen again on Dudley's roads.

"I want the minister to do more to provide justice to victims and their families who have been affected by dangerous driving.

"I hoped progress was being made when the Government announced it intended to toughen the sentences for causing death by dangerous driving, but since then, whenever ministers have been questioned about the delay they have said that the changes will be introduced 'as soon as parliamentary time allows'.

"I hoped that pressure from MPs and campaigners would prompt a different and more positive response, but sadly not. How many more families must be made to suffer before the Government takes action?"

A spokesman for the road safety charity Brake says: "More than nine months on from the Government announcement it is clear that no progress has been made. This is simply unacceptable. The Government must act now and deliver justice for road crash victims."

## SINGING IN THE RAIN AT FESTIVAL'S SOGGY FINALE



You can't dampen the spirits of Black Country folk determined to have a good time, as Sedgley Ukulele Strummers showed

THE Black Country Festival drew to a close over the weekend - after a month of celebrations, mostly held under blue skies in hot summer weather.

The festival, which began on June 30, reached its finale in Coseley just as torrential rainstorms hit the region.

The Coseley Black Country Day took place on Sunday and hardy local folk were deter-

mined to continue the festivities despite soggy weather.

Dave Brownhill, chairman of the festival, said: "The weather had been glorious until the final day when I initially thought the event would be called off because of the rain but the organisers were determined to put on a show and the people came out in force.

In its first weeks the festival faced some

competition for attention from the World Cup in Russia and England's good run in the competition.

"But attendances at all events have increased," said Mr Brownhill. "The street food festival in Stourbridge saw 1,400 people turn out on a Friday night. "The message for the Black Country is very positive and that is how we want to keep it."

### TRAGEDY

## Man dies after being hit by train

A MAN has died after being hit by a train at Sandwell and Dudley Station on Saturday, police have confirmed.

No trains stopped at the rail station in Oldbury on Sunday following the tragedy shortly after 5.30pm. A spokesman for British Transport Police said the man was pronounced dead at the scene and they were not treating his death as suspicious. The man's next of kin have been informed. In a statement, British Transport Police said: "A file will be prepared for the coroner.

West Midlands Railway and Virgin services were affected.

### PLANNING

## Mast is delayed to consider other sites

CONTROVERSIAL plans to raise a mast beside a road in Netherton have been put on hold.

Dudley Council planners have agreed that work to install a 57ft telecoms mast on Halesowen Road will halt whilst they search for an alternative site. Contractors WHP Telecoms Ltd and MNB, who represent EE and 3 mobile, agreed to a delay while other options are explored.

### HEALTH

## More died at hospital than was anticipated

MORE Russells Hall Hospital patients died than were expected to last year.

Officials estimated there should have been 2,331 deaths at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust or within 30 days of discharge in 2017. However, 2,433 people died - four per cent more than estimated. The figure is within the official 'expected' rating, which allows leeway on estimates.

### INSIDE

## HAIR'S BABY KATHERINE



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# Businesses invited to take on Hippodrome

COMPANIES are being invited to take over Dudley Hippodrome following the collapse of a community-led bid to re-open the landmark building as a theatre.

Dudley Council said it was welcoming 'expressions of interest' for the derelict building on Castle Hill. Parties are being encouraged to submit business cases for the building or for the site if they want to knock it down.

Dudley College is understood to be keen on taking over the site as part of its campus in the town but has yet to publicly confirm such an intention.

Council bosses are keen to make new use of the building or the site it stands, since they took back the keys to the once popular venue from the Friends group that aimed to rescue it.

It has even been suggested that a new campaign group may come forward but council chiefs are thought to favour of an alternative use for the site.

The authority earlier this year decided the plan by the Friends was not realistic, despite the group having invested thousands of pounds into the project.

Council leader Patrick Harley said he wanted to draw a line under the Hippodrome issue 'once and for all'.

The 1930s building, which once hosted such stars at Laurel and Hardy and Morecambe and Wise, has not been used since 2009 when it was a bingo hall. It was last used as a theatre in 1964.

Councillor Harley said: "We have bent over backwards to make sure that we consider every option for this building, but we cannot allow this to become another town eyesore."

# Killer watched TV as his victim lay dying

Report by John Scott

**RICKARDO Wilson professed to love Claire Harris but watched TV rather than make an emergency call for an ambulance as she lay dying on the floor of her Netherton flat.**

Wilson was described as an arrogant man with an alarming temper that spelled danger for the 44-year-old mother-of-eight during a near four-year doomed relationship punctuated by violence.

Her friend Stacey Malcolm explained: "It was drink fuelled, love-hate and got aggressively worse over the years."

Now 50-year-old Wilson faces a long jail sentence after being convicted of the manslaughter of Miss Harris who had 86 injuries, 43 of which were to the head and neck.

Stafford Crown Court was told that her body had been on the floor of her rented ground floor flat for up to 24 hours. Wilson told police he had 'no idea' how the injuries had been caused and was acquitted of murder by the jury. He was remanded in custody until September when he will be sentenced.

## Split

She was 5ft 5ins tall and weighed less than ten stone, he was five inches taller and well built. There was no definitive cause of death but the pathologist said it was likely to have been asphyxia. There was deep internal bruising to her neck.

The couple had split up but Miss Harris had allowed Wilson to remain in her flat in Cinder Bank, Netherton - where he had lived 'on and off' with her since 2015 - and she stayed in Dudley with her sons.

She was lured back to the address for 'dinner and beer' on January 23. In a message he pleaded: 'Don't let me



Killer Rickardo Wilson will be sentenced next month

down babe. Ain't seen you for ages." They drank alcohol and listened to music until a neighbour asked them to turn down the noise. Wilson claimed he was prepared to oblige but alleged Miss Harris refused and this led to an argument.

Another neighbour told police she saw the pair struggling outside the premises with him holding her in a headlock while she shouted he was about to kill her, the court heard. He claimed to have been pulling her away from the man who complained about the loud music.

Mr Jonas Hankin, prosecuting, revealed the defendant admitted grabbing her round the neck and

dragging her to the floor after she had allegedly picked up a kitchen knife. Wilson said he let her go when he realised her eyes were closed and she had gone limp.

He watched TV for 'ten minutes' before returning to the prone figure to 'discover' she was not breathing, the court heard.

## Panicked

The defendant maintained he panicked, gave her artificial respiration without success but did not call an ambulance or the police and said nothing to her family who had expected her to return that night.

Anxious son Daniel Piddington



Mother and grandmother Claire Harris - son found her body

- one of the eight children she had during an 18 year relationship with Martin Piddington, who died just months before her death - called at the Cinder Bank flat and found her body.

Wilson denied both murder and manslaughter arguing he only used reasonable and normal force to disarm the grandmother-of-six of the knife she was allegedly holding.

Her family said in a statement: "Mom was always there when we needed her most. She was our rock when our dad sadly passed after a battle with cancer in March last year. She was taken from us all too soon."

# Family firm lands £11m medals deal with MoD

A FIRM based near Halesowen has landed an £11 million Ministry of Defence contract to make most of Britain's military medals.

Worcestershire Medals Service will supply medals including the George Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Queen's Gallantry Medal after beating off stiff competition to land the bumper contract.

As part of the two year deal the firm will make every military medal, award and badge, except the Victoria Cross - the highest operational award for gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

Overall the contract is for around 40,000 medals a year.

## Family

The Bromsgrove-based family business, which employs more than 50 people, previously worked on the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Ebola Medal and the Elizabeth Cross.

The MoD says the contract underlines its push to increase the department's spending with small and medium size businesses.

Gavin Williamson, the Defence Secretary, who is also MP for South Staffordshire, said: "Medals symbolise the bravery, courage and dedication of our service personnel and I am delighted that we have awarded this contract to a family-run business in the West Midlands, supporting local jobs, helping to develop specialist skills and manufacturing, and boosting the local economy."

Worcestershire Medals Service was founded in 1988 and is based in Broad Street, Bromsgrove, and has a factory in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

# Road sweeper fleet growing

A NEW fleet of road sweepers is taking to the streets as part of Dudley Council's pledge to keep the borough clean and green.

Council bosses gave the go-ahead for six new vehicles to get to work immediately at a meeting last Thursday.

The Scarab M25H machines will replace four outdated sweepers, which will go out of commission, and will result in two additional machines being added to the fleet.

They will enable the council to sweep town and village centres, trunk roads and residential estates on a more regular basis.

A crew of 54 people make up the front line street cleansing team, who will cover approximately 2,300 miles every month using the new fleet.

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## Borough is looking epic in new video for visitors

A NEW two-minute film is showcasing Dudley's tourist attractions with a bird's eye view of the borough.

Discover Dudley has launched the film to encourage more people to explore the borough and all it has on offer – including Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Living Museum and into Merry Hill.

The film gives a fly-through tour as seen through the eyes of nine-year-old Heidi Palmer and her family, from Kingswinford. While Heidi stars throughout the video, it is narrated by her older sister Ella May Palmer, 12.

It calls in on the Black Country Living Museum, dropping in on the lemurs at Dudley Zoo, spying on dinosaurs at Dudley Museum and watching glassblowing at the Red House Glass Cone.

It also takes in a show at Dudley Town Hall, glides through the tunnels at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, stops off Merry Hill and goes hunting for fossils at Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve. The video ends with young Heidi at Park with a picturesque view over the boating lake.

Councillor Ian Kettle, Dudley Council's cabinet member for tourism, said: "When you see everything the borough has to offer wrapped up in this short film, it's quite remarkable."

To see the video visit [expressandstar.com](http://expressandstar.com) website.

## Nurses and Red Cross to rescue

NURSES and volunteers came to the rescue of patients when a water pipe burst in Tividale.

Staff from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and members of the British Red Cross dashed to the homes of patients under their community care when they heard about the incident near Burnt Tree on Friday. Ruth Williams, clinical lead for primary care, said: "We were aware our patients in the area were without water due to the burst pipe, so we acted very quickly by sending out our community nurses and Red Cross volunteers. It meant that they were able ensure that those patients were not left dehydrated in the heatwave."

● Flood – page 4

## Fun day on field

A COMMUNITY fun day for all the family is being held next Saturday (August 11) at Dormston School playing field in Sedgley from noon to 4pm. Admission is free and funds raised go to White House Cancer Support.

# Girl dies in accident on way to prayers



Jannatul Bakya, aged six

A SIX-YEAR-OLD girl killed when she was hit by a car in the Black Country has been named as Jannatul Bakya.

Jannatul was with her father heading to prayers at a mosque in Smethwick when she was struck by a car on Saturday evening.

The crash happened at around 10.50pm as Jannatul and her father were crossing Oldbury Road. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 27-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving

have been released on bail. The suspects, from Smethwick and Bearwood respectively, were detained shortly after the accident but have been released while inquiries continue.

Jannatul's father paid tribute to his daughter, as a photo was released of the smiling youngster.

"Jannatul, my youngest daughter, was always happy and cheerful," the tribute said. "She always bought a smile to everybody's face. She will be greatly missed. I would ask that my family be given space to be able to grieve in private."

Detective Constable Damian Gibson, from West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Unit, said: "We are investigating the circumstances leading to this tragic event."

"I'm appealing for anyone who saw the collision, or who may have CCTV or dashcam footage, to get in touch."

"The family are receiving support from family liaison officers and, our thoughts are with them at this very sad time."

Witnesses are asked to call the Collision Investigation Unit on 101.

# Violent youth gang went on spree of robberies

A 20-YEAR-OLD who robbed a young man of his mobile phone at knifepoint is starting a two-year sentence at a Young Offenders Institution.

The victim was targeted by Yunus Mufahi while walking through Haden Hill Park in Cradley Heath and was ordered to hand over his phone at knifepoint on August 19, 2016, a judge heard.

Mufahi, of Winwood Road, Rowley Regis, appeared in the dock for sentence with five teenagers from a gang that robbed several young people during an evening of violence two years ago. The group included 17-year-old Brandon Phillips, who killed a man in Netherton three days later. They operated as an intimidating pack on August 8, 2016.

Phillips repeatedly punched a youth at the bus station at Merry Hill shopping centre following an incident at the school several attended. Less than two hours later Phillips was among a 15-strong mob who confronted four boys riding BMX bikes in Old Wharf Road, Stourbridge. The boys were ordered to hand over their phones, and were punched and kicked, the court was told.

### Stabbed

Phillips, of Dunhill Road, Rowley Regis, admitted the Merry Hill assault and robbing one of the BMX boys. He was given six months detention at an earlier hearing but is already serving a 10-year sentence for the manslaughter of Simon Johnson, aged 41, who was stabbed at his home in Netherton on August 11.

Danyal Hussain, 18, of Harcourt Road, Old Hill, was convicted of the four BMX boy robberies, as were a 17-year-old from Cradley Heath, a 16-year-old from Oldbury and two 15-year-olds from Quinton and Cradley Heath. Each was given a 12-month youth rehabilitation order with a night-time curfew. The 17-year-old's order will last for two years. Hussain must also do 150 hours unpaid work and pay £200 compensation.

All defendants except Phillips had denied the offences but were convicted after a trial.

## Any requests for Funky Moped?



Jasper Carrott made a surprise appearance at the 34th Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival

THERE was a surprise guest when popular Brummie comedian and actor Jasper Carrott got up on the microphone at the 34th Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival.

Jasper joined the Duved Dunayevsky Quartet at the Brass-house on Broad Street during last

Wednesday's festival gig. He described himself as an 'enthusiastic supporter' of the ten-day festival, which ran until Sunday.

Festival director, Jim Simpson, from Halesowen, said: "Jasper is a pal. He is a very musical person. Before he got anywhere near the stage he had three or four people

taking selfies with him. His performance was hilarious."

The 73-year old comedian's appearance follows two-life saving operations last year.

Mr Simpson added: "The festival feels the best it has for years." A total of 234 performances were held across 115 venues.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fire crew arrived in the nick of time

QUICK-THINKING neighbours saved a house from serious damage during a late night fire in Stourbridge.

A large quantity of rubbish and building materials stacked up close to a house in Hagley Road, Oldswinford caught light at around 11.30pm on Friday. The flames spread to a side entry door. The house was unoccupied at the time and so firefighters from the Brierley Hill station had make a forced entry to check that the inside of the property had not been damaged.

Commander Andrew Papworth said: "The diligence of the local community in raising the alarm ensured that we got there in the nick of time."

### Teenagers hurt as car hits wall

THREE young men were taken to hospital after a car careered into a wall shortly before midnight on Saturday.

The 17-year-old driver lost control of the Ford Fiesta in Lordswood Road, Wordsley at around 11.45pm. It slammed into a wall before bouncing back into the road.

The driver and his two passengers – also aged 17 – managed to get out of the damaged vehicle before a fire crew from Brierley Hill arrived. Two had suspected fractures while the third was suffering from shock.

### Plea after dog attack kills cygnet

A BABY swan died after a dog attack on a canal path in Coseley. The RSPCA has launched an investigation following the 'disgusting' incident on Thursday when witnesses saw two men laughing as their Akita-type dog caused horrific injuries to a cygnet on Wednesbury Oak Loop Canal Path.

RSPCA Inspector Nayman Dunderdale said: "The dog grabbed hold of the cygnet and dragged it down the path for around 30 metres while they laughed."

Anyone with information is urged to call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018.

### Manufacturer targets opportunities in Japan

A BRIERLEY Hill manufacturer is targeting a major sales drive in Japan.

Alloy Wire International, which supplies more than 60 different high performance alloys to the automotive, aerospace, nuclear, oil and gas sectors, has invested £100,000 into establishing a new sales partner in Tomoe Engineering and launching a dedicated Japanese website. The firm also attended its first Tokyo exhibition, which led to lots of new enquiries.

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# 4 New Beat as exotic beers come to Lye

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

A NEW brewery which began life in the West Country is set to start operations in the Black Country.

Beat Brewery has already been going for two years in Somerset but production of its range of beers is moving to the Old Forge Trading Estate, off Dudley Road in Lye.

Beat, which produces vegan-friendly craft beers and gives them names tied to various musical themes, has been bought by Lye businessman Mick Rogers.

Mr Rogers also runs powder coating business R&M Metal Finishing at the same site.

Mr Rogers said they were being advised by the former owner on setting up the five-barrel brewery which will produce casks and mini kegs. Some of the beers will also be bottled.

Beat's award-winning ales include Rocka, Raver, New Wave, Metal Head, Funk and Cosmic Pop. The brewery also makes Glam, an IPA described as the only lychee based beer in the UK.

Mr Rogers said that once brewing was established at the new site there were plans to produce a new range of Black Country beers under the Top Cat name as well.

"It's all pretty exciting moving into a new line of business," said Mr Rogers.

He also plans to open a factory outlet on the site to sell the beers in about six months time.

## £15m airport terminal extension is proposed

BIRMINGHAM International Airport could be in line for a major extension.

Plans for a £15 million revamp of the terminal building have been submitted to Solihull Borough Council.

The scheme involves some demolition work and reconfiguration and will see the departure lounge and baggage area increased in size. The airport is anticipating increasing passenger numbers.



The diggers move in to locate the problem underground



At work repairing the burst pipe that caused Friday's flood



Water gushes into the road



Flood water inches away from a door



At Oakthorpe Gardens the gardens were turned into ponds



The clean up gets under way in Tividale

# Burst pipe floods homes

A MAJOR road between Dudley and Birmingham has been closed for a week after a burst water pipe flooded the road and several homes near busy Burnt Tree Junction.

Water was up to a foot deep along the A4123 New Birmingham Road in Tividale and the ruptured water main saw water gush through five houses on Friday.

Oakthorpe Gardens – backing onto the New Birmingham Road – was affected after water cascaded down a bank behind the homes.

Water gushed through Frances Markley's house in the street, which backs onto the Birmingham New Road. The 86-year-old's home was the worst affected by the incident with water four inches deep in her kitchen.

She said: "The girl down the way knocked round on my door at 5.30am

and asked if I was alright. I asked why and she said there was all water everywhere. It was coming off the New Road.

"My lounge and kitchen is soaked. My carpet is soaking wet. It all came from off the main road. The water was gushing and took my wheelie bin from outside my kitchen door.

"I had someone coming to wash my conservatory and clean the slabs in the garden that day and I had my garden done the day before. It is ab-

solutely squelching. It's upset me but it could have been worse I suppose."

Emergency services arrived around 5am, after residents had been woken by the flood, and the main road was blocked between Birmingham New Road and Wolverhampton Road. Southbound the route was to remain closed between Regent Road and Walford Street with it unlikely that the road would be fully open until tomorrow (Friday).

Neighbour Mag Connaire, 63,

praised the fast action by workmen to solve the issue. "The fire officers, the council and water board have done a great job," she said. "The water came down the bank behind the houses. It was very deep in the garden. A few more inches and it would have come into the house."

A spokesman for South Staffs Water apologised for inconvenience and said that although the water did not look clear it was not harmful to health.

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# Suspended sentence for man who attacked ex and daughter

A MAN has been given a suspended sentence after assaulting his ex-partner and daughter, before crashing his car into their home.

Randall Collins, of Kelnor Gardens, Oldbury, had no explanation as to why he went to his ex-partner's home on June 21, Wolverhampton Magistrates heard. He kicked down the door, assaulted his ex-partner and 21-year-old daughter, then drove his car into his ex's vehicle and the property in Oldbury.

Collins, 56, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of assault, two counts of criminal damage under £5,000 and one count over £5,000. He also pleaded guilty to driving without a licence and insurance.

## Rehab revamp for care home

THE site of a former care home is to be turned into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre under new plans.

Former Dudley Council-owned New Bridge House in Coseley is to provide accommodation for men aged 25 and up from as early as January 2019 under a scheme led by charity Expectations UK.

Marc Blanchette, chair of trustees at Expectations UK, said: "New Bridge House will provide direct access accommodation to men from the age of 25 upwards. We do not offer accommodation to individuals with arson convictions or offences of a serious sexual nature. We are hoping to open New Bridge House in January 2019 after a major refurbishment. We discussed the concerns of the local community (in a meeting with councillors). As a result, we have agreed to hold two community consultation sessions in Coseley in mid-August."

Prosecuting, Pat Kelly, said: "He punched his ex in the face and then deliberately drove his vehicle into her car a number of times, writing the vehicle off. He then reversed his vehicle into the property itself."

### Remorse

In a statement his daughter said he punched her in the head, adding she didn't believe he could hit her as she was his little girl.

David Bright, defending, said: "He has expressed deep remorse. He just lost the plot."

Recorder Benjamin Nicholls, sitting at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on Friday, sentenced him to 16 months for criminal damage over £5,000, four months for each assault and two months for each criminal damage under £5,000. He ordered the sentences to run concurrently and suspended them for 18 months. He was ordered to carry out 25 days rehabilitation activity, 100 hours unpaid work and pay £775 compensation to his ex. He was made subject to a restraining order to keep away from his former partner and his daughter for 10 years.

## Motorists go low-tech to defy thieves



Thieves tried to take Neil Horsburgh's Audi S3 but a steering lock stopped them

CAR and van thefts have almost tripled in the West Midlands in three years with 3,420 stolen in the first six months of this year.

The figures, released by the region's police and crime commissioner, also show which car makes thieves are most likely to target - Audi, followed by BMW, are the most popular makes stolen.

The increase reflects a rise in car crime across the region and come as Chief Constable Dave Thompson says investigations into car crime may take longer - or not happen at all - due to budget cuts.

Commissioner David Jamieson says manufacturers need to do more to step up security. Many thefts are keyless with thieves using technology to pick up signals from a car's fob inside a home to open the vehicle and even start the engine. The cars are then often shipped abroad or sold for parts after being dismantled in 'chop shops'.

Mr Jamieson has met with representatives from BMW, Honda, Ford, Nissan, Audi and Jaguar Land Rover to discuss improving security measures.

IT consultant Neil Horsburgh, 46, from Quinton, experienced his £55,000 Audi A5 being stolen from his driveway in December. Only months later thieves tried to steal his new Audi S3, but were prevented from doing so thanks to a steering wheel lock.

Low-tech deterrents are making a come back with car owners.

## £75m wiped off value of the Merry Hill centre

THE value of the Merry Hill centre has been cut by £75 million - with owner Intu announcing overall losses of a staggering £502m in just six months.

The Brierley Hill centre has the second highest rate of empty shops of any of the Intu group's centres, with 6.6 per cent vacant - twice as many this time last year.

The plummeting valuation is a result of the decline in the UK's retail sector, which has seen a string of chains closing hundreds of stores or striking radical bailout deals.

The Intu figures come despite plans to pump £100m into improving Merry Hill with a new cinema and more restaurants in the pipeline.

Around £15m is committed on work at the centre while a giant Next store is about to open on the site of the centre's former Sainsbury's supermarket.

Shares at Intu, which took over Merry Hill in 2014, slumped as a result of the loss and the company announcing the departure of its chief executive. The shopping centre company made a £503.4m loss in the six months to June 30, compared to a profit of £122.7m during the same period of last year.

### Chief

David Fischel, Intu's chief executive, will step down from the board when a successor has been found.

Intu has been hit hard by a decline in the value of its shopping centres, which include the Trafford Centre in Manchester and Lakeside in Essex. Together they are now valued at £9.8 billion. Merry Hill lost eight per cent of its value, down to £864m, while centres in Derby, Watford and Nottingham were down by 11 per cent.

Mr Fischel said: "During a period of weakening sentiment in the retail market, which has impacted shopping centre valuations, Intu has delivered a resilient operational performance in the first half of 2018."

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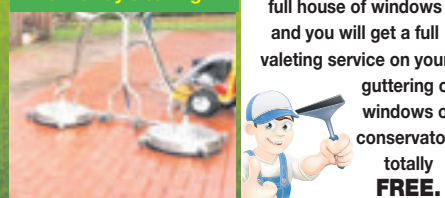
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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# What a lot of fuss over university billboard

LAST week, somebody who styled herself as "Dr Helen Dexter of Leicester University" posted an advertisement for Wolverhampton University on social media, with the comment "This image is so offensive I am amazed anyone thought it was appropriate. Please withdraw it immediately."

I looked at it, and then looked at it again. I could not see anything remotely offensive. Admittedly, I couldn't understand what it was about either, just a young girl, presumably a student, talking to a group of children, presumably in Africa. With the slogan "If you want to explore new worlds, start here."

It is a hopeless advert, but then again, roadside billboards seldom give confidence in an academic institution. When was the last time you saw one for Oxford or Cambridge?

But while it seems a rather silly way to promote its courses, I fail to see how anybody could possibly be offended. Thankfully, Dr Helen's fellow travellers were happy to explain.

Now I'm always sceptical about non-medics who preface their name with the title "Dr", particularly on social media. It seems a bit chippy, a bit like listing your O-level grades after your name. But when it comes to self-regard, the people who took offence seem to be on another planet.

"Prof Dr Lisa Ann Richey" explained it was all about "voluntourism" and "neo-colonialism", as well as "visual signage". Now when was the last time anybody who used the word 'signage' had a valid point to make?

Then there was Nicole Andrews, a 33-year-old health and social care lecturer at Newman University in Birmingham. She said: "There's strands of colonialism, patriotism, racism, gender issues." So patriotism is a bad thing now, as well?

Also worth an honourable mention is Dave Hitchcock, a self-styled "historian" who says the "echoes of philanthrocapitalism are Not Good". Philanthrocapitalism. Where do they get these words from? I think, in plain English, what they are trying to say is that a lot of young people who go on these "aid projects" are really after a cheap holiday and a pat on the back, which is actually a valid point.

I have long grown weary of people raising thousands of pounds in sponsorship not to give to charities working in the Third World, but simply to pay for their very expensive trip. Quite what this has to do with colonialism, gender issues or capitalism, though, I'm not sure. Still, on the positive side, at least it's funny seeing one bunch of snowflakes complaining about another bunch of snowflakes.

## Remember the time when 'Made in Britain' reigned



Sondos Alqattan – and the problem of employing Filipina maids



Humid? I am reminded of the throwaway line by neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman)



Peter Benchley's definition in his novel, Jaws – a shark is a swimming appetite

# Glow of pride that can cost a fortune

TODAY I metaphorically link arms with Comrade Jez on the long march to the sunlit uplands of Brexit. Jeremy Corbyn is a long-standing enemy of the EU for exactly the same reason as his political enemies Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg. They do not believe Britain can be properly governed, or reach its full potential, as a one-28th part shareholder in a superstate which is strangled by red tape and ruled by people who think Luxembourg is a real country. This week Mr Corbyn urged the nation to seize one of the first advantages of Brexit – the weak pound – to kick-start our manufacturing industry. Why buy stuff from China when we can make it here?

WELL, it sounds perfect. Unless you are old enough to remember the time when almost every item you bought was marked "Made in Britain" which may have given us a brief glow of pride but cost us a fortune.

IN the drought of 1976, for example, being young and foolish, we followed the Government's advice to soak the garden using water from the washing machine. What no-one told us was that the appliance's water pump depended on a certain level of water pressure. Attaching the machine to a garden hose increased the pressure, demolished the pump and wrecked the "Made in Britain" washing machine. The replacement, also made in Britain, cost us £130 or to put it another way, two weeks' wages. Consumers have grown accustomed to consumer goods being made in China and sold here for a fraction of what, in real terms, they used to cost. So own up, citizens. How much are you prepared to pay to subsidise Comrade Jez's Number One All-British Washing Machine Factory?

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THIS week saw the introduction of a pair of beavers to a stream in the Forest of Dean. Or as it will shortly be known, the Lake of Dean.

OUR changing language. Full marks in the creative-English stakes to the police officer on Radio 4 who described a rise in acid attacks from 700 a year to 800 per year as "a de-escalation." What she meant was that the rate of increase was slowing down. It's a bit like inflation which makes prices go up, even when it's falling.

I PRESS the computer key and TV Licensing replies: "Thank you. Your TV licence application was successful." Depends how you define successful. I am poorer by £150.50 yet I seem to watch less BBC than ever before. This week I have been mostly watching Netflix.

SPELLCHECK. Netflix = Reflux.

IN the debate over whether the insult "gamm-on" is racist, a reader insists the term has "zero racist comment." Which is exactly what they used to say about golliwogs, the N-word and the Black and White Minstrels. Don't you just hate being on the wrong side of history?

THE BBC's religious slot Thought for the Day, is reserved for approved religions, despite lobbying by atheists, humanists, pagans and druids. One item this week was a common-sense discourse on the costs of funerals by a Church

of England vicar. Unless I dozed off, there was not a religious line in it. The piece could have been delivered just as well by an agnostic, rain-dancer or Jedi knight. The idea that only God-botherers have opinions worth listening to is a form of discrimination. Unworthy, Auntie.

BIG questions of our age. "How can you have a servant at home who keeps their own passport with them? What's worse is they have one day off every week." Kuwaiti social-media star Sondos Alqattan on the problem of employing Filipina maids. Servants, eh? Who'd have 'em?

SHARKS are flocking (do sharks flock?) to Cornwall. As sea temperatures rise it is not a question of whether someone will be devoured by a British shark, but when. Yet the official line seems to be that sharks are magnificent, intelligent creatures that we should adore and not fear. I prefer Peter Benchley's definition in his great novel, Jaws. A shark is a swimming appetite.

WHILE we're on it, who decided in all the latest nature programmes, that killer whales should suddenly be rebranded as Orcas? They have not gone all huggy-feely, vegan and fluffy overnight and I suspect they not only think of themselves as killers but are proud to be introduced as such. Yeah, technically I'm an Orca but just call me Killer, right?

THE more humid it gets, the more I am reminded of that silly, throwaway and yet unforgettable line from One Foot in the Grave (BBC) when Victor Meldrew's chatty neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman) flips the fence panel aside and asks: "Is it moist or is it me?"

## TALKING POINT

# Beautiful game? It's just one big cliché

The football season is just a couple of days away but don't expect the main action to be taking place on the pitch.

Far from it, in fact. Away from the glare of the TV cameras and plodding punditry is where the modern game is played out these days.

Typically topical and candidly controversial, Talking Point offers the following top 10 highlights of 2018-19:

1 Many an eyebrow will be raised in the first month of the season when at least half a dozen clubs will lose patience with their coaches. Yes, it's time to jump aboard the Managerial Merry-go-Round.

2 Social media will be 'buzzing' after a player/manager/commentator oversteps the mark and posts something to cause 'outrage' and 'disgust'. It happens all the time so why do we still get so uptight?

3 A newborn child will be landed with the names of all the players at the club his father (and it's usually down to the dad) supports. Time to call in the NSPCC?

4 Back in social media land, there will be regular updates on an 'ardent' supporter who has booked a flight from the other side of the world, only to be thwarted in getting to their 'match of a lifetime' by a strike by air traffic controllers.

5 A 'warts and all' autobiography will 'lift the lid' on the excesses and corruption behind the shiny facade of the beautiful game. Note the timing of publication... just in time for the Christmas market.

6 Several clubs will brag about having a 'celebrity supporter' who has crawled out of the woodland having watched a few World Cup games on the telly.

7 At some stage in the season, a family will be pictured wearing the team colours of two rival sides who are playing each other that week. Headline? "Family loyalties put aside until final whistle".

8 A survey, probably by an estate agents, will show how house prices are affected by the proximity to a football ground, omitting the problem of trudging home having parked half a mile away when the streets are clogged up with supporters' cars.

9 A cliché will spring up that will get everyone gnashing their teeth by the end of the season. My money's on "They're in a love train", as coined by Glenn Hoddle when England players stood in a queue waiting for a corner to be taken.

10 'Council busybodies' will 'stick their nose in' when someone paints the outside of their house in their team colours.

There it is, our national sport in all its glory. If you're a football fan, don't get too irate. If you're not, I'm afraid you'll just have to grin and bear it. Here we go, here we go, here we go!

STEVE PARLETT

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# Roll on Brexit but not in name only

IN response to Robert Perry and what appears to be his monthly Brexit Bashing Blog, the latest titled 'Brexit bullying tactics not democracy'. The complete irony of his use of the word bullying seems lost on Mr Perry, bearing in mind the EU's attitude towards the UK and it's negotiating tactics.

Amusingly, Mr Perry still finds it difficult to believe that the largest democratic vote in our history dared to have voted to leave the increasingly sovereignty-sapping and dictatorial EU. He cites several so-called benefits of being in the EU, none of which are or should be under threat, unless the EU wishes to be vindictive. Perhaps the loss of our servicemen and women in two world wars has no value to the EU mafia?

He goes on to quote Nigel Farage fighting for another vote if Leave had lost but fails to consider that it took the public 40 years to have a say on our membership. Mr Perry would like another one before we have even left!

Less than 25 per cent of the UK voted to remain. The EU has been no friend of the UK. It helped large motor manufacturers financially to move production to eastern Europe with the loss of thousands of jobs. It allows for freedom of movement which helps depress wages and has helped destroy our fishing and agricultural sectors. We also have to subsidise the economy of other countries whilst our public services go down the pan.

Thankfully, despite the efforts of Remoaners like Mr Perry, the majority see through Project Fear. Roll on Brexit just not the one in name only currently proposed by our Prime Minister.

**RICHARD SMITH**  
Halesowen

## Listen to the doctors and nurses

I write in response to the excellent and revealing article on July 19 by Dayna Farrington: 'A and E Nurses quit over safety concerns'.

The anonymous member of staff stated that the main concern was that they are not being listened to and, with staff reductions, safety is being compromised.

The response from Diane Wake, the trust's chief executive, highlights this concern about not listening to staff. She regards the staff turnover as natural! After eight resignations and 42 medical staff signing a letter of concern, such a statement would be laughable if it wasn't so serious!

There are staff at Russells Hall Hospital who are unhappy and genuinely concerned. Well done to the staff for raising such worries.

The senior executives seem uncaring and quite disdainful of criticism. The staff need to be listened to.

**C STOLL**  
Halesowen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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## Please Mr Perry, don't imply that Leavers are 'thick'

I AM sick and tired of it being implied that people who voted pro Brexit are too thick to understand what they voted for.

Yes, only half the population voted but anyone entitled to vote had that opportunity.

The vote was in favour of leaving. Maybe Mr Perry needs to look up the meaning of the word democracy?

Theresa May and the Remainers are going against democracy which, technically, is treason.

**MRS L HOMER**  
via email

## A strange definition of democracy

ROBERT Perry's idea of democracy fully complies with the EU definition. When a vote doesn't agree with their idea, just make them vote again until they reach the right result is the one that the EU want.

The EU flagrantly interferes in sovereign country elections.

The EU destabilised a democratically elected government in the Ukraine bringing the continent to the closest point of war with Russia since the Cold War. So Mr Perry should take off those rose-tinted glasses when talking about how peaceful, stable and collaborative the EU is.

No matter what the proportion of a country's population votes in an election the result is still valid. Or is this another interpretation of democracy Mr Perry and his beloved EU is trying to introduce. Sounds very authoritarian to me.

**GARRY HICKMAN**  
Lower Gornal

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# 8 Morris and hip hop mash up in family show

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

A UNIQUE family-friendly live music and dance show featuring everything from morris to martial arts is coming to Stourbridge QUEST, featuring the award-winning folk group the Demon Barbers, is at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday, September 1. The show has been put together by Breaking Tradition, regarded as the UK's leading folk and hip hop dance company.

The show is said to be suitable for families, gamers and live music and dance lovers of all ages.

Written by award-winning writer and actor Stacey Sampson, QUEST fuses Morris dancing, clog and sword dancing with popping, locking, breaking and martial arts to the beat of new songs and traditional melodies with an electronic edge.

Damien Barber, artistic director of Breaking Tradition and frontman of the Demon Barbers, said: "We are all excited to have produced a new dance show specifically aimed at a younger generation which incorporates traditional folk customs into the digital world.

"We have been delighted by the fantastic reaction it's been receiving so far around the country, and look forward to bringing it to Stourbridge in September."

Tickets are on sale now. To book visit [www.boroughhalls.co.uk](http://www.boroughhalls.co.uk) website or call the box office on (01384) 812812.

## More than 1,900 drink-drivers caught

ALMOST 2,000 drink-drivers were caught in the West Midlands during 2017, latest figures show.

Over half of those motorists convicted were caught during the summer, a percentage that it is feared will rise this year given the prolonged sunny spell before the weekend's downpours. A total of 1,939 drink-drivers were caught locally last year.



Mother Natalie Moore, baby Katherine and grandmother Jayne Aston



Six month old Katherine Mary Matthews shows off her unusually long hair.



Oh baby, what lovely locks!



Her hair was thick when she was born



Natalie and father Anthony Matthews with baby Katherine



Peek-a-boo: Six-month-old Katherine admires her hair

# Hair's to you, baby Katherine

**YOU can hair-dly believe that it's real!**

Little Katherine Mary Matthews, aged just six months, is already sporting flowing dark locks.

Growing up to eight inches long at the last count, the Wordsley tot had a full head of hair when she was born said mother Natalie Moore – and it hasn't stopped growing since.

Natalie said: "She's got a lot of hair. We did measure it from the

crown and in some parts it was getting to eight inches.

"I can't go anywhere without strangers stopped me and saying 'oh my god, I've never seen a child with that much hair'.

"They call her 'the baby with all the hair' at the doctor's surgery."

Ms Moore said it took 'extra time' to properly take care of Katherine's hair.

She added: "I've had to keep her hair nice and fresh in the warm

weather. She can have the hairdryer on a little bit. It does take some extra time to rinse her hair and dry it.

"I had to trim her fringe a few months ago, but it's starting to come back again.

"It's something she has got used to from an early age.

"It's just gone past her neck and past her shoulders now."

Long hair seems to run in the family, as Ms Moore's relatives all have long hair.

The 33-year-old added: "She's got an older sister Scarlett who is seven and a two-year old brother, Anthony.

"They both had a lot of hair but nothing at all like Katherine's.

"It's in our genes. She's got that gene from my side of the family. She's very similar to me.

"When I was four, I could sit on my hair so that was quite long.

"I had a lot of hair and my mom was born with quite a lot of hair as well and my nan, she's 84 and she's

got black hair – with just a little bit of grey."

Ms Moore said she did not intend to cut Katherine's hair just yet, instead choosing to let it grow.

She added: "I would like it to grow as long as possible and maybe have a trim when it's needed.

"She's used to me brushing it now, so if she's used to it I plan on letting her have long hair. I would like it to grow as long as possible and have a trim when needed."

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# Tree damage has cost taxpayers £320,000

**DAMAGE to homes caused by council-owned trees has cost the taxpayer more than £320,000 in just four years.**

Figures reveal the cash settlements made by each council to homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

They include an £18,200 pay-out in Walsall for damage caused to a patio by roots, £18,776 in Sandwell for a tree which fell on a garage and home and £14,450 in Dudley for property subsidence caused roots.

While Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley settled six-figure sums overall and Staffordshire five-figure sums, Wolverhampton council did not pay out for one claim relating to home damage caused by trees.

The figures come a month after it was revealed councils in the Black Country had chopped down a total of 6,359 trees over the past three years.

One family impacted by overgrowing tree roots outside their home was the Hadleys, who moved into their home in Priory Road in Dudley in 2000.

## Cracks

Three years later they discovered cracks on the walls in their home and the insurance company had to be called for a major rebuild of the house.

Julie and Erik Hadley still live at the property with their 34-year-old son James. Their insurance company received £40,000 from Dudley Council.

Mrs Hadley said: "We had to stay in the property while major work was being done to the house. Councils need to take the issue more seriously rather than allowing Tarmac to be put over growing roots. It's an important issue and, as you can see, it can end up costing the councils a lot of money."



Julie Hadley discovered cracks in her Dudley home caused by tree roots

In Dudley, where the council settled 25 cases totalling £110,815, Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment services, said: "We regularly carry out tree inspections and deal with any trees that are found to be dead, dying or dangerous as a priority over all other tree work to ensure the safety of our residents."

"The council only pays claims for which it is legally liable and these fig-

ures, showing a small number of cases over a three year period, are in line with most neighbouring authorities.

"Trees play a vital role in our communities, filtering air, acting as a haven for wildlife, creating attractive landscapes and generally contributing to community wellbeing, which is why we fell trees which present significant risk to people or property, and always investigate concerns raised."

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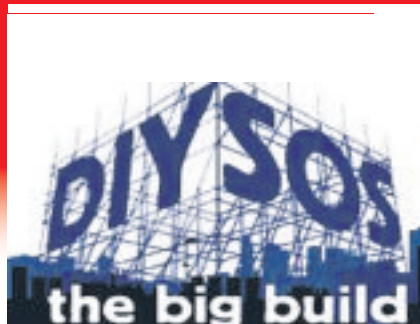
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# One-in-three firms hit by domino effect

ONE in three West Midlands companies has suffered a financial hit from another firm's collapse in the last six months, research reveals.

The so-called 'domino effect' has seen businesses struggling following the insolvency of a customer, supplier or debtor, according to the latest report from the Midlands branch of R3, the insolvency and restructuring trade body.

It follows a 13 per cent rise in underlying insolvencies in the first three months of this year compared to the previous quarter, and a spate of high-profile company failures involving such major companies as Carillion and Toys R Us.

R3 Midlands chairman Chris Radford, a partner at Birmingham law firm Gateley, said: "No business exists in isolation, and every headline-grabbing corporate insolvency will have consequences for numerous other enterprises.

"After the news of the Carillion liquidation broke, for example, our local members reported an immediate upsurge in requests for advice from companies with links to Carillion.

"Many retailers have hit the headlines as a result of their current difficulties, causing less visible struggles at other firms, such as suppliers and service providers."

# Business leader's praise for society



Lord Digby Jones speaking at Dudley Building Society AGM

ONE of the country's leading business figures has hailed the success of the Dudley Building Society as it marks its milestone 160th year.

Speaking at its annual meeting at Himley Hall, Lord Digby Jones said the society epitomised his ideal of 'socially inclusive wealth creation', helping working people to save and buy their own homes since its launch in 1858.

He also spoke passionately about the positive outlook of the UK economy, as well as sharing his thoughts on entrepreneurship and Brexit.

He highlighted the importance of businesses and the role they play in sharing success and prosperity, captured by his phrase 'socially inclusive wealth creation'.

Lord Digby Jones said: 'I'm a great believer in the work hard, save and invest cycle. These are the corner stones of mutuality that Dudley Building Society epitomises with its members. Building societies are a precious thing and I hope savers and borrowers from across the country continue to support them.'

Dudley Building Society has 35,000 members.

# Safety measures plan for busy road

COUNCIL bosses are looking at installing safety measures on a main road where a pensioner was killed.

Following a campaign by residents, designs and estimates are being drawn up for a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on Wolverhampton Road, in Oldbury, at its junction with Castle Road East and Castle Road West, are being drawn up.

A campaign to improve safety was launched following the death of Edward Harris, aged 85, who died after a crash at the junction, near the busy Birchley Island, in 2016. A total of 842 people signed a petition, which was then considered by Sandwell Council.

A report to Sandwell Council's cabinet petitions committee states: "Designs and estimates are currently being undertaken for this work. A further update will be reported back to the cabinet petitions committee."

# £250,000 grant aid boosts museum's ambitious plans

**THE Black Country Living Museum has been awarded 250,000 towards its huge Forging Ahead project.**

Bosses are aiming to create a new 'town' at the museum in Tipton Road, telling the story of the region between the 1940s and 1960s.

The project is involving the museum rescuing buildings from across the Black Country to be reconstructed at the attraction, which has been given a new lease of life thanks to its

use as a location in hit TV 1920s gangster drama *Peaky Blinders*.

The grant is from the Wolfson Foundation, which was set up by Scottish businessman and philanthropist Sir Isaac Wolfson. The money will also be used for learning areas and improved visitor facilities. Upon completion, museum bosses are aiming to welcome 200,000 more visitors a year, taking their annual total to 500,000, as well as bringing extra jobs and apprenticeships to the area.

Andrew Lovett, museum chief ex-

ecutive, said: "We are thrilled to receive such a generous grant from the Wolfson Foundation, which we will be using to support our ambitious new development."

"Previous grants from the Wolfson Foundation have played a significant role at the museum, enabling us to bring our colliery area to life. However, this one is particularly important to us, taking the story of the Black Country into the 40s, 50s and 60s, allowing us to widen engagement with our audiences."

# Historic milestones are toasted with tea

A SPECIAL tea party will be held in West Bromwich on Sunday to commemorate 100 years since women won the right to vote and the end of the First World War.

Manor House Museum, in Hall Green Road, will be hosting the event tfrom 11am to 3pm. Admission is free.

Museum staff are inviting people to join them for an afternoon of traditional live music, outdoor games, guided tours and delicious cream teas.

There will be a variety of Remembrance poppy-themed crafts for visitors to create and decorate which will be displayed at the museum in November.

Throughout the day local historian Ian Bott will be giving talks with admission to the talks 50p per person. There will also be cream teas, which will include a pot of tea, selection of cakes and scones at £5 per person or two for £8. Book in advance by calling the museum on 0121 588 2985.

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## Toys R Us store to make way for shops

A TOYS R Us store in the Black Country – shut down after the toy chain collapsed – will be demolished under plans to make way for a new retail development.

The large store, off Birchley Island in Oldbury, closed its doors in April. A retail development, also taking up some of the car park, will replace it.

The West Midlands Combined Authority were approached over the proposal last month as the unnamed developer wants backing on the scheme.

The project involves knocking down the Toys R Us store, which had been operating since the 1990s.

The toy chain collapsed with the loss

of 2,000 jobs in February. A decision was taken to close all the chains' 106 stores after administrators failed to find a buyer. The company hit problems when it was unable to pay a £15 million tax bill.

Toys R Us branches at the Merry Hill Centre in Dudley and at St Andrews in Birmingham also closed down.

## Crafty kids will be heading for the Cone this summer

**THERE'S lots to do at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley this summer.**

There's a chance to make something in glass with bookable sessions throughout the holidays at the historic cone on High Street.

Sessions include Creative Glass, Tinga Tinga and Cityscape on today (Friday) and tomorrow with a focus on the surrealism of Dali on August 10 and Aboriginal Art August 17, then Japanese Manga comic book art on August 24 and Clarice Cliff August 31. Sessions cost £10 per child and must be booked in advance.

For youngsters five and over there are glass fusion sessions on Wednesday (August 8) and on August 23 there will be a chance to make glass ice lollies and jelly fish. Sessions cost £5 at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2pm, and must be booked.

### Jewellery

There are new 'In the Style of' sessions where youngsters can learn about an artist, movement or technique and apply new skills to work in a range of mediums. Longer sessions run from 10.15am to noon and are suitable for ages eight and up, costing £6. Sessions include Tinga Tinga on today (Friday), Dali next Friday, Aboriginal art on August 17, Manga on August 24 and Art Deco on August 31. Sessions must be booked. There are also two-hour jewellery making sessions on Monday and again on August 20 from 10.30am. Sessions cost £10 for ages 11 and over. Book in advance.

The cone is hosting an 'out of this world' family day on Thursday (August 9), teddy bears picnic on August 16 and a pirates and mermaid day on August 30, each 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Visitors can also drop in to the cone's design studios and watch free glass blowing demonstrations every weekend.

Visitors to the Stourbridge Glass Quarter can learn about the area's history thanks to two updated trails celebrating the area's heritage.

Stourbridge has been associated with the glass industry for more than 400 years. The self-guided trails take visitors around such landmarks as the Red House Glass Cone, Bonded Warehouse and Ruskin Glass Centre. A booklet can be downloaded from [www.discoverdudley.org.uk](http://www.discoverdudley.org.uk) [www.glassquarter.org.uk](http://www.glassquarter.org.uk) and a video, called 'Crystal mile walk' is available to view online at [www.youtube.com/user/dudleymbc](http://www.youtube.com/user/dudleymbc)

## Top comics come to town



**James Acaster, whose comedy special features on Netflix, tops the bill**

BIG comedy names, including Netflix star James Acaster, are coming to Stourbridge to raise money for charity Reverse Rett in the name of Daisy, a four-year-old Stourbridge girl with a rare neurological disorder called Rett Syndrome.

Also on the bill at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 26 will be Ivo Graham, Kingswinford's Danny Clives and MC Andy Robinson. For tickets see [www.boroughhalls.co.uk](http://www.boroughhalls.co.uk) or call (01384) 812812.

Meanwhile, the comedy continues at Stourbridge Town Hall when the Kum-n-avaloff monthly comedy night returns on September 6 with

a line-up of Susan Murray, Harvey Hawkins, Neil McFarlane, plus MC Dan Smith.

The Lost Hancocks, featuring rarely heard scripts from a comedy show that was written for the great Brummie comedian Tony Hancock before the classic Hancock's Half Hour, will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 19.

Entitled Vacant Lot and penned by West Bromwich-born Goon Show writer Larry Stephens, it will be performed in the Wollaston Studio by a cast including impressionist James Hurn (BBC2's Dead Ringers) as Hancock, and Janice Connolly.

## Supermarket to create 30 jobs on retail park

A NEW supermarket will create 30 jobs when it opens on a Black Country retail park.

The Food Warehouse is set to move into Oldbury Green Retail Park in September.

The supermarket is offering a starting rate of pay of £8.62 per hour, which is nearly one pound above the National Minimum Wage. Applications are now being

accepted for a number of roles.

The store, part of the Iceland Food Group, says successful applicants will be trained in all aspects of the store operation ensuring all have potential to become the managers of the future.

Candidates interested in applying should visit [jobs.iceland.co.uk](http://jobs.iceland.co.uk) and search The Food Warehouse Oldbury.

## Ancestors group mark 40 years of looking at history

THE Midland Ancestors Stourbridge Group, who gather regularly to look into family and local history, recently celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Members met at St Peter's Church Centre, in Pedmore, to host a special event with guest of honour Dudley's mayor, Councillor Alan Taylor and the mayors, his wife Winifred, along with society president Dr Chris

Leigh MD and executive officers.

The mayor was shown exhibits from the group's past by long-standing member Jean Weston.

A buffet was laid out after and there was entertainment from Marlene Watson. Dr Leigh toasted the mayor and the Stourbridge group.

For more information about the group email [stourbridgegroup@midanc.uk](mailto:stourbridgegroup@midanc.uk)



# Ray shows his love of lorries on 67th birthday



Black Country haulier Ray Hingley displays just a selection of his collection of lorries in celebration of his 67th birthday

## THEIR lorries have long been a familiar sight on the roads of the Black Country..

One of the brothers behind A. Hingley Transport Ltd – Ray Hingley – has been showing off some of his beloved vintage collection along the busy A449 Wolverhampton Road.

Drivers passing through Stourton will no doubt have seen the impressive fleet parked up outside Mr Hingley's home. It was all part of the businessman's 67th birthday celebrations.

Mr Hingley said the restoration of

vintage lorries was both his career and passion, which he had been enjoying since he was a teenager.

Standing proudly next to a 1949 Atkinson eight-wheeler, he said: "It's in my blood – my living and my hobby."

"My wife and I even had our wedding photo on the back of one of the trucks on our 40th wedding anniversary too."

### Collection

"We're doing up our 14th truck now. I just wanted to say thank you to all the people who stopped to look at them and appreciated them on my birthday."

The Hingley family own a collection of vintage trucks spanning from 1929 to 1968, based at A. Hingley Transport in Brierley Hill.

Ray works with his family – two brothers Alan and Keith, wife Tina and sons Alex and Ray – to restore them.

The 100-strong team at the firm includes his sister Andrea, other family members, and good friends.

A. Hingley Ltd is a well-known family hauliers business in the Black Country, set up by Ray's father Arthur in 1968, and made a limited company by his sons in 1969.

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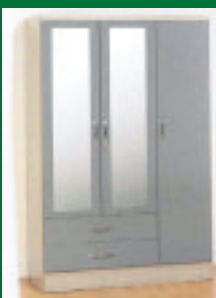
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# Scenting a vintage treasure in salesroom

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



IT'S been a while since we talked about vintage perfume bottles and as we have a number of lovely ones going under the hammer next week I thought we should re-visit the subject!

Perfume bottles have long been a collectors' favourite, with some people looking for those of a particular style and age and others seeking the designer labels.

These bottles were first manufactured back in the nineteenth century and were almost regarded as advertising items in themselves - they were designed to mirror the style of the fragrance they contained.

The bottles were also sold empty so people could buy their own perfume (possibly a cheaper variety!) with which to fill them.

Many of these bottles were beautifully designed with ornate stoppers and they had a dual purpose as a dressing-table accessory.

Slim-line versions were produced for hand-bags and purses and major fashion houses like Chanel even made perfume bottle necklaces.

Tiny bottles were also available containing samples and these are hugely collectable today.

The style of the bottles often reflected the era of manufacture, some superb Art Nouveau ones with silver stoppers were made by the likes of Thomas Webb & Sons, and these are very much sought after in the saleroom.



Earlier bottles from the Victorian and Edwardian periods were often made of coloured glass, again with silver stoppers and again very popular with collectors.

Elegant and wonderfully decorated perfume bottles were produced throughout the twentieth century by all of the major manufacturers and so there are a great number to choose from if you decide to collect.

Some people have hundreds - or more - of these lovely items and they are nice to display within a home.

They are also unlikely to have sustained any real damage or wear and tear over the years and if you are lucky they may still contain some vestiges of

the perfume they originally contained. So happy collecting - and enjoy a real blast from the past!

\* The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street salesroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, August 7, from 10.30am.

\* Viewing is during the weekend and on Monday and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at [www.perryandphillips.co.uk](http://www.perryandphillips.co.uk). Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

\* Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.

# What to do if you hit a wild animal on the road



You can eat a wild bird - provided you did not run it over

MOTORISTS have been advised what to do if they accidentally kill or seriously injure a wild animal on the roads this summer.

Experts from car leasing giant LeaseCar.uk believe most drivers don't even consider the possibility of hitting an animal, however, road kill is a familiar sight on our roads and motorways.

Hitting an animal such as a fox, badger or even a deer is a real risk in rural areas.

Under the Road Traffic Act, 1988, it is the responsibility of the driver to lookout for road signs which warn motorists there could be loose animals, such as deer and cattle nearby.

If drivers see warning signs they should be extra cautious and, in darker conditions, make full use of vehicle lights.

Drivers must stop when hitting an animal, approaching only when it is safe to do so without putting themselves or anyone else in danger.

You should observe the animal first to see how badly it is hurt before calling a vet or the authorities, it's not advised to transport the animal yourself.

It is vital to consider your own safety and

that of others before approaching an injured animal, it's also good to remember that most injured animals at the road side will be wild animals - so take extra care before approaching.

Most wild animals don't have legal protection in Britain so there is no requirement on a motorist to report a collision to police.

However, the Road Traffic Act states drivers must legally contact the police if they hit dogs, horses, cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, donkeys and mules.

Some of the most common animals killed via roadkill are badgers and wild birds. It is illegal to possess a badger, dead or alive. However you can eat a wild bird, so long as you can prove you didn't kill it.

Some animals such as deer have extra protection and drivers should call police if they find the road ahead blocked by one, according to the Deer Act of 1991.

In other cases, if you have killed an animal accidentally it is actually ok to park up, scoop up its body, take it home and cook it for dinner. However, if you offer the poor creature's meat for sale, even to friends and family, you

would be breaking the law. Birds are usually not protected with the notable exception of swans which enjoy royal protection as the property of The Queen.

It's highly unlikely that you'll encounter a swan on the road, but if it does happen it's advised to not touch the animal if it is dead, or approach it if its alive. Instead contact the RSPCA.

A spokesman from LeaseCar.uk said: "Most motorists don't ever consider the possibility of hitting an animal. But we've all seen roadkill while we're driving so we know it's an all-too-frequent occurrence."

"We wanted to give drivers an insight into the correct ways of dealing with it."

"If an animal is injured or in distress you should take it to a vet for treatment but it is important to make sure your vehicle has not been badly damaged in the collision and remains roadworthy. However, if the animal is dead you are allowed to take it home and eat it providing its death was an accident and not deliberate. But if you sell the dead animal's meat you could face arrest and prosecution."



Half the fun is wondering where you might end up



You don't have to be too ambitious: Greek islands like Zakynthos are not remote but worth a visit

# You don't have to be too ambitious on a gap year



Pick the right type of bag

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF August and exam results looming on the horizon, an increasing number of students are choosing to break up their studies by travelling overseas for extended periods - and a growing number of established professionals are also pressing pause for a career break too.

But while a freewheeling attitude and sense of adventure are key to successful backpacking, careful planning is equally essential.

If you're considering taking off in the next few months, here are some top tips you might want to know...

## 1. Make a plan

Half the fun of backpacking is wondering where you might end up, but it's still worth having a rough plan in mind. It will help you to budget not only money - but also time.

## 2. Consider an organised tour to get you started

If you're nervous about travelling alone, think about booking a place on a group tour to kickstart your adventure. It will give you an opportunity to settle into the rhythm of

## Report by Sarah Marshall

travel and may also help you make a few friends. Kontiki and Leap specialise in tours for younger travellers, while Exodus and Explore cater for an older market.

## 3. Don't be too ambitious

There are so many places to visit in the world and there's no pressure to see them all at once.

Don't listen to country counters who brag about the number of borders they've crossed; it's far more rewarding to spend quality time in a destination. And there are plenty of places closer to home that are worthy of a visit.

## 4. Buy the right bag

Whether you're planning to travel for two weeks or two months, your backpack will become your best friend for the duration. Take time to purchase the right bag that isn't too heavy (around 50 or 60 litres is ideal) and which fits comfortably. You should aim to have the weight distributed 70-80% on the hips and 20-30% on the shoulders.

## 5. Pack properly

There's no point buying an enormous backpack which you won't be able to carry. Maximise the use of space in your bag by packing efficiently and leaving few gaps.

Make sure items are also evenly distributed to ease weight pressure.

## 6. Decide what to take

Clothing will depend on your choice of destination, so think carefully about the climates you plan to visit. Merino wool base layers are ideal for cold destinations, and look out for T-shirts featuring Polygiene - a stay fresh technology which slows bacteria growth and keeps clothes clean for longer.

A universal adapter, a compact quick-dry towel and a sink plug (because most of the sinks you'll encounter won't have one) are all extremely useful - and won't take up too much space.

## 7. Mingle with the locals

It's very easy to stick with fellow backpackers - and can often be good fun. To really get under the skin of a destination though, try and engage with some of the people who actually live there. Even a short conversation in a cafe can give you some insight into a place.

## 8. Don't get hooked on WiFi

Uploading images to social media is a great way to stay in touch with friends back at home - but don't let it detract from your travelling experience. Accept you may not always be able to log on in remote places, and also remember to appreciate time spent detached from technology.





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search for 'Lander Automotive'.





# Escape to country at picturesque hotel retreat

Review by Kirsten Rawlins

**LOOKING** for a picturesque destination to escape for the weekend? Mallory Court Country House Hotel and Spa is the perfect retreat.

With stunning decor, luxurious rooms, and a delightful spa – all set in the tranquil countryside on the outskirts of Leamington Spa – Mallory Court is a delight.

Boasting 43 bedrooms, the traditional English manor house hotel offers award-winning accommodation.

It won three AA red stars for comfort and hospitality, as well as the title of AA Small Hotel Group of the Year for 2014 to 2015.

My partner and I enjoyed an overnight stay at one of the hotel's beautiful superior rooms, which overlooked its lovely, unique walled garden.

The wonderfully spacious ground-floor room offered a fantastically comfortable king-sized bed – in which my other half fell asleep the second his head hit the pillow – a large en-suite bathroom, and a patio area accessed by double doors.

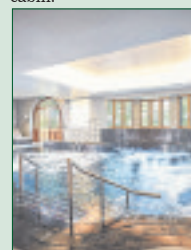
We indulged in a day at the Elan Spa while there, which has been a fixture at the Leamington destination since its construction in April last year. It is located just a few metres from the main hotel.

Its indoor facilities include a rock salt sauna, a steam room, a fairly large hydro pool complete with jets, seats and powerful overhead shoots, and a rhassoul room, which can be used at an added cost and advance booking.

It also offers a gym and nail bar. Outside, meanwhile, the spa boasts a stunning terrace, with tables and chairs and loungers which overlook peaceful greenery and a tennis court.

This area also offers a lovely, relaxing vitality pool – or hot tub – set at 37.5 degrees.

There is also an outdoor sauna, located in a wooden cabin.



Visitors can enjoy a bite to eat while there too at its up-market Spa Cafe.

After a wonderful day lounging about at the spa, we returned to our beautiful room, before heading out for dinner at the Brasserie restaurant, just a stone's throw from our patio.

Following a greeting from the friendly, attentive staff, we took to our table in a conservatory area adjoining the building which is separate to

the main hotel.

Once we had perused the fairly short but varied menu, I opted for the slow-cooked duck egg with creamed savoy cabbage and smoked bacon starter; a delicious, perfectly cooked start to the meal.

For mains, I chose the 8oz 28-day aged sirloin steak served with triple-cooked chips, tomato, mushroom and onion rings, while my other half opted for the beer battered fish and chips with crushed peas and tartare sauce.

Presented very nicely, both my steak – priced at £27.50 – and my better half's fish – at £14.50 – were cooked well.

Dessert was the meal highlight, however, as I found out when I indulged in the delicious chocolate pavé with caramelised bananas, caramel, vanilla ice cream and peanut brittle.

Laid out stunningly, with an amazing balance of flavours, this was a most memorable dish – and I enjoyed every mouthful.

Breakfast the following morning in the hotel's up-market dining room was a full English – though, were I to go again, I would pick something different from its extensive offering.

The buffet offered a range of delicious pastries in which I indulged, as well as a selection of cereals and a few fruit options.

A very lovely destination for a spa day with a gorgeous, comfortable, luxurious room – and a hotel and spa I would certainly return to in future.



Beautiful waterfalls can be seen at Canonteign Falls



Families can enjoy a ride on South Devon Railway

# So much to see and do in delightful Devon

## ON HOLIDAY

Review by Mat Growcott

**IT'S** a long way down the M5 to Devon, with only dull grey buildings, the occasional field and lots and lots of traffic to hold your attention.

Then suddenly, like a desert mirage, you are surrounded by greenery. Trees pop up almost out of nowhere on both sides of the road, gorgeous hills tower in every direction – the motorway melts into spectacular countryside.

If this is your first trip to Devon, believe me when I say it only gets better from here. Because around every corner, down every little side road, is a hidden gem.

Whether it's a traditional village unspoiled by yet another big superstore, a quiet beach, castle or an old house full of secrets, there's always something worth seeing.

### Hyenas

Kents Cavern in Torquay sums up that fact better than anything. We got lost down a couple of residential roads trying to find it. In a well-kept but fairly unassuming building at the top of a hill, it houses miles of prehistoric caves that have over the years been a den for everything from bears and hyenas to families of early humans.

Our David Attenborough-voiced guide Simon talked us through the history of the caves and the long Victorian effort to clear it out. It is an easy walk, entertainingly delivered, although those who struggle with the dark or cramped conditions might want to steer clear.

There's something really nice about starting your trip with the caverns. It puts some context on millions of years of history. There's a restaurant there as well, serving prehistoric-themed food for road weary travellers.

If Kents Cavern is a deep look at the past,



Dartington Hall in Totnes is the ideal base for exploring Devon

Babbacombe Model Village is a miniature modern world.

Thousands upon thousands of little dolls occupy dozens of different worlds, from castles and hospitals to the house from the Addams Family or a celebrity mansion with everybody from Freddie Mercury to Elvis Presley at a party.

Pennywell Farm, in Buckfastleigh, might offer an alternative for groups with toddlers.

Adorable animals can be played with

across the park, with rides and things to take part in as well.

It's more aimed at families, and that soon becomes obvious when you start exploring beyond the entrance to the park. But nature lovers will get a rare chance to interact with some genuinely chilled out animals.

Just down the road is the South Devon Railway. The heritage line is the longest established steam railway in the south west, dating back to 1872. It's a real step back in time. The food, the sights and smells – it all

comes together to something really special. It's only a short trip, but the delicious afternoon tea and chance to take part in a bit of nostalgia with, hopefully, good company really puts it on the map.

If history is your thing, Buckfast Abbey is an odd example well worth visiting. The site has been the home of an abbey for 1,000 years, and there's events to celebrate the site's millenium year throughout 2018.

But the beautiful church itself was only finished in 1938. It combines the best of a traditional church feel with more modern innovations, some put together by the monks themselves.

It's a serene place to visit, with nice gardens and a cafe around for those that like to roam a little bit.

Another Victorian site, volunteers are slowly restoring Canonteign Falls which were built more than a century ago, uncovering interesting walks or beautiful gardens.

### Waterfalls

The key attraction is the beautiful waterfalls, which give an exquisite view of Devon's countryside.

We stayed at Dartington Hall in Totnes, an ideal place to stay for exploring this part of the world.

Many of the buildings date back hundreds of years, including the fantastic Grade I listed hall itself. The rooms were clean and traditional, but simple. Food was delicious, and the gardens were well worth an explore.

Another great place to stay in the Torquay area is the TLH Toorak Hotel, renowned as one of the most friendly hotels in Torquay.

Devon is an absolutely stunning place to visit. Walkers and nature buffs have endless countryside to explore, while families are never too far away from an attraction or beach.

The long road back seemed a bit dreary after all the colour and sights of Devon.

But knowing there's plenty more to see, we'll be heading back very soon.

# Summer family fun and entertainment in bucketloads



Devon has some top beaches to enjoy

**DEVON** is ready and set for a sizzling summer, full of non-stop family fun and entertainment.

The visitor attractions have so much going on for all ages, everyone's going to be spoilt for choice when it comes to picking where to go for a family day out.

Why not head for Devon's theme parks and take the plunge on one of their water rides or get soaked in a splash zone? For adrenalin junkies, why not take a ride on one of Devon's top rollercoasters or toboggan runs or climb amongst the trees at River Dart's high ropes challenge.

Pack a picnic and mess about on a river

or head for one of Devon's top beaches like Blackpool Sands.

There will be themed weeks galore, for both children and adults. There will be Pirate Fridays and Wild West Wednesdays at World of Country Life or climb aboard the magical Fairy Tram whilst the bravest enjoy the Dinosaur Adventure or Pirate Tram, all at Seaton Tramway. Want to get crafty? Then head to Exeter Cathedral for some willow crafting or join the "Kit Construction Tuesdays" at Pecorama in Beer.

Look the part at Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter where you can dress up in the style of a bygone era then step into the display case to take a fun and memorable picture. There are also

puppet-making sessions or why not design and print your very own pop art poster?

There will be appearances from children's characters. Marshall from PAW Patrol will visit the Big Sheep on August 26 and Titan the Robot will be at Woodlands Family Theme Park on August 7 and 14.

Make the most of those balmy evenings and enjoy some outdoor theatre. This year the garden theatre at Killerton is 'The Tempest', Arlington Court has 'The Midnight Gang' and 'Alice in Wonderland', while Powderham Castle will stage a production of 'The Winter's Tale'.

Visit [www.devonstopattractions.co.uk](http://www.devonstopattractions.co.uk)



## Star-studded summer in the inner city

A series of big name concerts are being held in Birmingham city centre during August and September, called the Skyline Series.

Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, James Arthur, Garbage and The The are coming to Digbeth Arena for a series of open-air inner city concerts, whilst Texas and Imelda May have changed venue to play Symphony Hall under the Skyline banner.

First up on August 24 is music legend Brian Wilson, performing the classic Pet Sounds album. Support from Turin Brakes.

On August 25 the bill topper is James Arthur, who won The X Factor in 2012. He has grown into an accomplished musical artist with hits including Impossible, You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You, Say You Won't Let Go and Naked.

A week later, on September 1, Sharleen Spiteri's Texas team up with rockabilly rebel turned torch singer Imelda May. Glasgow's Sharleen and co will be bringing the tour for their latest album Jump On Board to Brum, after Dublin's Imelda sings songs from her Life Love Flesh Blood album. Support from British country duo Ward Thomas.

Matt Johnson's 80s hitmakers The The team up with Field Music in Digbeth on September 7. Fresh from accepting a career-crowning NME Icon Award award, Shirley Manson brings Garbage to the city centre venue on September 8. Support from Maximo Park and Honeyblood.

See [www.skyline-series.com](http://www.skyline-series.com)

The boys are back in town – Iron Maiden at Genting Arena



## We've still got passion

IRON MAIDEN will return to Birmingham to headline the city's Genting Arena on Tuesday.

Following the massively successful global tour of 2016-17 in support of their 16th studio album The Book Of Souls, Iron Maiden are back on the road again with the Legacy Of The Beast World Tour.

The concept for the tour was inspired by Maiden's mobile game and comic book of the same name, and the stage set design will feature a number of different but interlocking 'worlds'.

Their set list will cover a large selection of

1980s material with a handful of surprises from later albums.

Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain says the band are enjoying their present tour, having started on May 26 in Tallinn, Estonia, in front of a 10,500-capacity crowd at Saku Suurhall.

At that gig, they kicked off with Aces High, complete with a replica of the iconic Spitfire war plane suspended above the stage, which hadn't been performed since 2014, before continuing with Where Eagles Dare, played for the first time in 13 years.

The show also included The Clansman, Sign Of The Cross, For The Greater Good Of God, The Wicker Man and Flight Of Icarus.

Nicko says: "We've got a lot of production, more so than we normally have. When I say 'production,' I mean lots of effects, lots of special staging.

"Of course, you've got all of the Eddies. There's a lot of fireworks, a lot of wonderful effects. Bruce has staged some wonderful theatrics. But, for us, as a band, it gives us an opportunity to play some of the older stuff we haven't played in a long time."

He admits re-learning some of the high speed drumming has been challenging, adding: "I have to warm myself up because I am an old git. But the thing is with Maiden, we all still really, really have a passion to play live."

## New look, old name for theatre

The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham is undergoing a £650,000 revamp and will revert to its original name, The Alexandra.

Work has started on a new façade with digital signs, which will be completed this autumn when the popular venue on Suffolk Street Queensway is relaunched with a brand new logo.

The refurbishment will also see a complete facelift of the theatre's historic Grand Circle, with all seats and carpets replaced, improvements to the bar in the Old Foyer, a revamp of all dressing rooms, window improvements and intricate maintenance to the venue's chandelier.

The works follow a previous £1.25 million spend between 2013 and 2015, when the Piano Bar received a complete revamp complete with Baby Grand Piano and resident pianist.

Theatre director Lisa Mart said: "Since opening its doors in 1901, the Alexandra Theatre has become one of the most important and much-loved buildings in Birmingham. We are incredibly excited to have secured the investment to relaunch the venue in a way that not only modernises our external appearance but also celebrates our history by returning to our original name The Alexandra."

Major shows this year include Saturday Night Fever, Motown The Musical, Dirty Dancing, Rock of Ages, Fame the Musical, David Walliams' Awful Auntie and the stage version of TV favourite Benidorm.

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A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection.

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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## AT YOUR LEISURE

Singer Cariss Auburn



## Cariss music videos show love for her home city

"I've got to give credit to my mum, it was her idea for the series."

It might not be seen as rock'n'roll to thank your mum for supporting your fledgling music career – but that sums up the humble attitude of Cariss Auburn.

Wolverhampton born-and-bred, the 27-year-old talks about her love of her home city and her passion for promoting Black History Month.

The 'series' she is talking about is her Wolverhampton Wanders project.

It involves Cariss taking her guitar and a local film crew to her favourite places in the city and performing a song that means something to her.

So far she's filmed four entries which are available on her website and YouTube. The first episode saw her take to the Light House media centre at the Chubb Buildings to perform Mary J Blige's Everything and Sweet Female Attitude's Flowers.

Next up was her performing Water Baby by Tom Misch and Loyle Carner at WV Active Central, before No Doubt's Just A Girl at Wightwick

Manor and Solange's Don't Touch My Hair at the Grand Theatre.

"I've lived here all my life. I went away for uni but came back because it's home," said the former Highfields and Wolverhampton Grammar school pupil. "For this series I decided to connect with my past and visit places I have spent a lot of time at."

Cariss will be appearing at the Live Vibe Festival at Zara's Bar Club in Birmingham on Sunday and is part of the Project Sound Lounge Festival at Birmingham Town Hall on August 18. Visit [www.carissauburnmusic.com](http://www.carissauburnmusic.com)

## Anton and Erin back to face the music and dance

Strictly Come Dancing veteran Anton Du Beke has announced a major tour early in the new year with his dance partner Erin Boag.

Their latest production, Dance Those Magical Musicals, is scheduled for one West Midlands date at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday, January 26, with 2.30 and 7.30pm performances.

The nation's favourite ballroom couple present a tribute to musical theatre with stunning costumes and breath-taking choreography set to famous tunes from such iconic shows as Phantom of the Opera, Mary Poppins, 42nd Street, Wicked, Top Hat, Hairspray and Jersey Boys.

Joining Anton and Erin on stage will

be the London Concert Orchestra, a sensational dance ensemble and star vocalist, Lance Ellington from TV's Strictly band and son of band leader Ray Ellington.

The show will also feature the popular 'Q and A' section which always leads to some fun interaction with the audience.

Anton said: "Get ready for West End live on the dancefloor! Erin and I can't wait to bring our new show to a venue near you. Expect fabulous dancing, music and song."

Fleet-footed Anton is the last remaining of the original professional dancers in the Strictly line-up and is due to return with the show in September. He made it all the way to the final with Katie Derham in 2015 but is yet to lift the Glitterball trophy.



Anton and Erin dance again

## West End star Ruthie joins the Songsters

A West End and Broadway singing star will be joining a Black Country choir for a special show next month.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir from Kingswinford will be joined by Ruthie Henshall for Songsters on Broadway at Dudley Town Hall on September 28 at 7.30pm.

Ruthie Henshall's glittering musical theatre began with Cats in London and includes major roles in Miss Saigon, Les Misérables, Oliver!, She Loves Me (for which she won an Olivier Award), and, most recently, Billy Elliot.

She is also about to become the only British actress to have played all three leading female roles in Chicago, as she has been cast as Mama Morton in the London production, having previously been Olivier Award-nominated for her role as Roxie Hart in 1998 and starring as Velma Kelly on Broadway in 1999.

The Dudley concert will also feature performers from West Midlands operatic societies. Tickets are £18 and £20 via 01746 763850, email [gsmvchoir@gmail.com](mailto:gsmvchoir@gmail.com) or online via [boroughhalls.co.uk](http://boroughhalls.co.uk), the venue's box office.

## You only get an Ooo with Adventure Time

Fans of Cartoon Network's surreal show Adventure Time can now explore the bizarre Land of Ooo themselves in new video game Adventure Time: Pirates of Enchiridion. Pendleton Ward's animated TV series has got a loyal cult following – and not only among children – who delight in its mind-bending imagery, colourful graphics, distinctive slang and dry wit.

Bandai Namco's Pirates of Enchiridion lets gamers set sail as they play as Finn, Jake, BMO and Marceline on a quest to save the melting Ice Kingdom.

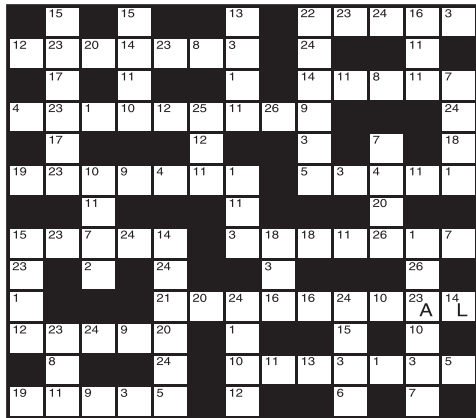
The game starts in a flooded Land of Ooo, in which the kingdoms are cut off from each other by rising waters, so Finn (the human) and Jake (the shape-shifting dog) set sail to investigate 'what the junk went down'.

Game play is simple and guided but what will really draw in fans are 3D visuals that perfectly match the look of the show and the involvement of the series' vocal cast. It feels like an interactive extended episode of Adventure Time. The game is available for Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch and PC.



## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

R	H	I	J	Y	W	C	P	K	B	N	M	L
E	D	Q	O	U	S	G	X	T	Z	F	V	A

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

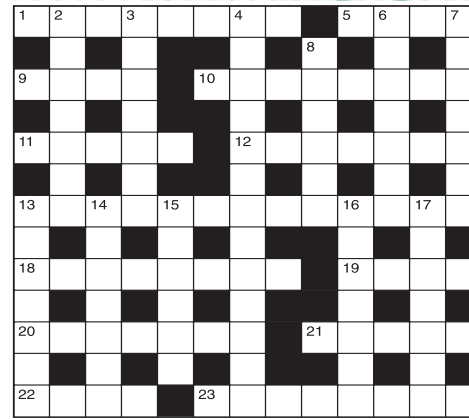
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Pure description of one having no rash appearance (8)
- It's an ingredient in oriental cosmetics (4)
- Constitute a bench (4)
- Shocking derision from a militant Puritan (8)
- I love to change into this material (5)
- Made by craftsmen approximate in weight (7)
- Fliers that give song near the southern border? (5-8)
- Causes misery to ten involved in dreadful storm (8)
- A route on holiday (4)
- Devilish attribute of the wicked pupil? (4-3)
- A group performing in the stalls (5)
- An indication of spontaneous ignition (4)
- It's a prey to unusual harshness (8)

#### Down

- Act as sponsor and do some upgrading (7)
- Delay the sentence on a convict (4-3)
- Being used at bedtime, it could provide the warmest starts! (5,8)
- Feeling a thrill when there's a giant reformation by the French (7)
- Originates a secret formula! (7)
- Some of the foemen Tom blatantly put in a grave position (6)
- Dogs from the streets (7)
- Grace may come before this, sweetheart (7)
- Football team partly cancel event (6)
- Hide the real mixture (7)
- He has no fancy ideas about a catalogue (7)



### Quick Clues:

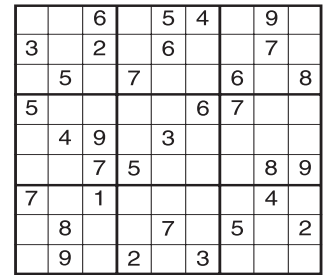
#### Across

- Hallow (8)
- Ostentation (4)
- Plot (4)
- Custom (8)
- Exclude (5)
- Building (7)
- Turmoil (5,2,6)
- Friendly (8)
- Achievement (4)
- Bishopric (7)
- Indefinite (5)
- Ogle (4)
- Agreed (8)

#### Down

- Illness (7)
- Touch (7)
- Poor memory (13)
- Aperture (7)
- Give (7)
- Deed (6)
- Disgrace (7)
- Fatty (7)
- Rubber (6)
- Chorus (7)
- Enactment (7)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	3	2	9	8	6	7
8	9	3	4	6	7	5	2	1
6	7	2	5	8	1	9	4	3
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
7	2	6	8	3	4	1	9	5
5	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	6
3	8	7	1	9	6	2	5	4
1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	9
2	5	9	7	4	3	6	1	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pamela; 4 Staple; 9 Take a back seat; 10 Untuned; 11 Okapi; 12 Weird; 14 Affix; 18 Roots; 19 Entrant; 21 Determination; 22 Lifted; 23 Stones. Down: 1 Put out; 2 Make the most of; 3 Learn; 5 Take-off; 6 Prevarication; 7 Entail; 8 Hardy; 13 Reserve; 15 Bridal; 16 Let in; 17 Stands; 20 Trail.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Candle; 4 Result; 9 Afforestation; 10 Cortège; 11 After; 12 Rover; 14 Pearl; 18 Upset; 19 Refusal; 21 Premeditation; 22 Tested; 23 League. Down: 1 Chance; 2 Nefariousness; 3 Large; 5 Emanate; 6 Uninteresting; 7 Tenure; 8 Askew; 13 Extreme; 15 Output; 16 Grain; 17 Plunge; 20 Frame.

## Quiz

- What is a line of equal temperature on a map called?
- Of which race was Goliath champion?
- Which Italian region includes Naples and Capri?
- Which decorative work's name is derived from the Arabic for 'striped cloth'?
- Which singer was known as Lady Day?
- Who set a World Cup scoring record with five goals against Cameroon?
- On which day of the week is Thanksgiving Day held in the USA?
- In which country is the Orange River?
- In which country is the CERN nuclear research organisation based?
- Who wrote Little Lord Fauntleroy in 1886?

### Last week's solutions:

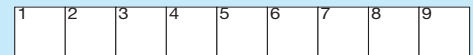
Quiz: 1 Turkey; 2 Electron; 3 Ethiopia;  
4 Kansas; 5 Dressage; 6 Humphry Davy;  
7 Kidneys; 8 Musicals; 9 New York; 10 Barbra Streisand.  
Niner: GRAPESHOT

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

547189  
163124  
2462

gives an element,  
gives a second element,  
gives a third element.



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Saturday 18th August 10am-4pm  
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Sunday 19th August

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CHOICE



Angela Carter

**Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Documentary looking at the life and career of the novelist, whose surreal imagination produced some of the most dazzling fiction of the 20th century. While Carter's early work drew on her claustrophobic childhood and miserable early marriage, it was her experience of living in Japan in the 1970s that liberated both her writing and her sexuality. The film includes rare archive footage and family photos, with contributions from Angela's friends, family and admirers - including Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, Jeanette Winterson and Anne Enright. Narrated by Sally Phillips.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, featuring the latest track cycling events. Commonwealth points race gold medalist Elinor Barker is expected to be in action at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and looking to claim the European title. **4.45** European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, as the men's 100m breaststroke swimming final takes place at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre. Olympic champion and world record holder Adam Peaty will be attempting to add another medal to his growing trophy cabinet, and will start as heavy favourite. **6.40 BBC News.** **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **European Championships 2018.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present continued live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, where medals are up for grabs in sports including track cycling at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Home favourite and defending European champion Katie Archibald will be looking to bring the house down in the women's individual pursuit final. **9.00** **Casualty.** Alicia plucks up her courage to tell the police that she has been raped. Eddie accompanies the paramedics who are called out to treat Jon's wife after she suffers serious burns - and is arrested on his return to the hospital. Bea leaves to make a fresh start in Paris, and Alicia receives an unwelcome visit that has devastating consequences. Last in the series. **9.50** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.10** **Film: Iron Man 3.** (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow. **12.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.35** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.05** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.35** The Dengineers. (R) **8.05** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **8.35** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.00** European Championships 2018. **1.15** Kew on a Plate. (R) **2.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.20** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **5.50** Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) **6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham focusses on the BBC SO tackling Shostakovich and two unconventional proms featuring folk music. She is also joined by Kerry Andrew, Golda Schultz and Pekka Kuusisto. **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **8.00** **Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** Documentary telling the stories of specific bombs dropped on Britain during the Blitz, from their impact on individual lives through to the wider consequences for the Second World War. The first film follows a bomb that fell on Martindale Road in the East End of London on the first night of the Blitz. There was relief that it remained unexploded - but tragedy was soon to follow. The story is told through first-hand testimony, diary excerpts and meticulous records kept at the time. (R) **9.00** **Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women.** Profile of the author, featuring animated sequences inspired by her surreal stories and readings from previously unpublished letters and diaries. Narrated by Sally Phillips. **10.00** **Alan Partridge: Why, When, Where, How and Whom?** Documentary celebrating 25 years of Steve Coogan's comic creation, featuring contributions from writers and co-stars and previously unseen rehearsal and improv footage. (R) **11.00** **Live at the Apollo.** (R) **11.45** **Goli: Women's British Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action. **12.45** **Picnic at Hanging Rock.** (R) **1.35** **Film: Jackpot.** (2011) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Playable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) **11.20** James Martin's American Adventure. **11.50** Eat. Shop. Save. (R) **12.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.20** **ITV News:** Weather. **1.30** **ITV Racing Live:** Glorious Goodwood. Coverage of the fifth day of the event. **4.00** **The Chase.** (R) **5.00** **WOS Wrestling.** **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.15** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.30** **Japandemonium.** A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast. This episode includes displays of nasal weightlifting, a hole in the road, and a show in which real rockets are fired at people. Narrated by Melvin Odom. **7.00** **Big Star's Little Star.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan spill the beans about their famous parents, talking about their home lives, making heart-warming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities. **8.00** **Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.** (2013) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally continue the quest to reclaim their lost kingdom, journeying through the forest home of ancestral enemy the elves and finally facing the dragon that drove them from their home. Meanwhile, Gandalf the wizard investigates the rise of a mysterious dark power. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage and Orlando Bloom. **11.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.20** **Film: Hard Target.** (1993) An out-of-work merchant sailor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler. **1.05** **Jackpot** 247. **3.00** **Eternal Glory.** (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Triathlon: Hever Festival of Endurance. **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** The People's Vet. **5.30** Escape to the Chateau. DIY. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **A Year in the New Forest.** In winter, the trees are bare and many creatures are in hibernation, while those that are still awake must do all they can to survive. But as disease threatens to wipe out Ann's fragile young herd of cattle and the forest keepers begin the annual deer cul, death stalks the land. To ward off the cold and dark, the locals take part in an ancient tradition - a dangerous horse race across the forest. **8.00** **My Family and the Galapagos.** Monty Hall's tries to determine whether the ecosystems of the Galapagos can cope with the demands of an increasing number of people who live and visit the islands. He joins a survey team monitoring juvenile sharks, performs a terrifying dive at night, and takes his wife and daughters on a visit to the volcanoes of Isabella Island. The family also adopts a more self-sufficient lifestyle, as they start keeping chickens and growing their own food, and learning how to make small scale fishing sustainable. **9.00** **Film: Sisters.** (2015) Premiere. Two estranged sisters are reunited when their parents decide to sell the house they grew up in. They return to the family home to clear out their childhood bedrooms, but with their parents away, seize the chance to relive their teenage years and throw one last wild house party. Comedy, starring Amy Poehler. **11.20** **Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1.** (2011) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart. **1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** The Big Narstie Show. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **3.20** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **4.20** Bad Tenants. Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.20** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **6.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents visit a former professional footballer who owes £4,500 in unpaid legal fees, and in London the officers chase up a £4,000 debt owed by a car dealer. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford-Brent and Charles Dagnall. **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Blind Date.** A familiar face makes a comeback, as Devorshka from series one returns to pick another date, hoping it will be more successful than her last one. Her potential suitors this time are entertainment manager Wes, life coach Richard and a surprise blast from the past. Also hoping to be picked are Kate from Gloucester, Welsh nurse Sarah and Bath beautician Lucy. Presented by Paul O'Grady. **9.00** **Gino's Win Your Wish List.** Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far - as well as a dream family holiday. **10.00** **The Women with a World's Biggest Hips.** Documentary about four plus-size women who are proud of their figures and make the most of them, including one whose hips are eight feet in circumference. (R) **11.05** **Too Fat to Work & On Benefits.** The lives of people who rely on benefits, beginning with those who are obese, including a man who thinks employers are prejudiced against fat people. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Body Donors. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **8.00** Wonders of the Monsoon **9.00** Cardinal: Blackfly Season **10.25** The Summer of Love: How Hippies Changed the World **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.25** Jazz Divas Gold **1.25** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **2.25** Wonders of the Monsoon **3.25** Top of the Pops: 1986 **3.55** Close **ITV2**  
**12.00** Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.25** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **5.10** Film: Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (2002) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (2002) **7.55** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **10.00** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Fairly Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Evil Monkeys **2.10** CelebAblitz **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**12.20** Goodnight Mister Tom **2.30** Inspector Morse **7.50** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.05** George and Mildred **2.05** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**  
**12.00** Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Pawn Stars **3.15** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **5.55** Monster Carp **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland **11.00** Film: Above the Law (1988) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Above the Law (1988) **1.05** Better Late Than Never **2.00** Minder **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**1.00** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: X-Men 2 (2003) **10.40** The Inbetweeners **11.50** Gogglebox **2.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **3.00** The Inbetweeners **3.55** Rude Tube **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.45** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**  
**11.00** Arriety (2010) **1.00** Rio (2011) **2.50** Capture the Flag (2015) **4.40** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham and Naya Rudakova. **11.05** The Cabin in the Woods (2012) **12.55** Spirited Away (2001) **3.25** Close

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## CHOICE



Arthur Williams

### Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams (Channel 4, 7pm)

New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own 1943 single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, taking in the rolling hills and open plains of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. Along the way he meets fellow aviation enthusiasts, including an aerobatic champion, a Cotswold craftsman who makes wooden propellers, and a man working on a jet-propelled flying suit. He also attends a public flying display and attempts a landing on a reproduction aircraft carrier.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **11.25** Songs of Praise. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens v Catalans Dragons (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.45pm). **5.00** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

#### 6.05 Regional Programme.

**6.15** **Countryfile.** The show comes from East Yorkshire, where John Craven meets Bridlington residents who take traditional cable boats out to sea. Margherita Taylor uncovers a secret art trail in the Wolds and meets poet Ian MacMillan, and Steve Brown learns about different uses for hemp. Plus, Charlotte Smith reports on the impact of tourism on beauty spots and Adam Henson meets a farmer with an active online presence.

**7.15** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Trellissick House and gardens in Cornwall, with unusual finds ranging from an ejector seat from a bomber to a miniature sewing kit.

**8.15** **Film: Florence Foster Jenkins.** (2016) Premiere. A tone deaf socialite imagines she is a great singer, and her conniving yet devoted husband allows her to remain in her fantasy by holding concerts with small, invited audiences. However, reality threatens to intrude when she announces her intention of realising a lifelong dream of performing in New York's Carnegie Hall, recruiting a struggling young pianist to aid her. Fast-paced comedy, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

**10.00** BBC News.

**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** **MOTD: Community Shield Highlights.** Manchester City v Chelsea. Gary Lineker presents action from the curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, as the Premier League and FA Cup winners clashed at Wembley Stadium.

**11.15** **Imagine: Jeanette Winterson – My Monster and Me.** Writer Jeanette Winterson talks about her childhood in Lancashire. (R)

**12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** European Championships 2018. Live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring rowing, track cycling, swimming, synchronised swimming and gymnastics. **12.15** European Championships 2018. Further live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring road cycling, synchronised swimming, rowing and gymnastics. **5.00** European Championships 2018. Gabby Logan and Clare Balding introduce further live coverage of day four of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, as track cycling and swimming dominate the schedule this evening.

**9.00** **Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls.** Ed investigates America's gun culture, travelling to Louisiana, the state with the highest statistics for gun murders. He goes on patrol with a sheriff's deputy, who discusses the challenges of policing a heavily armed population, and spends the night in jail with some Trump supporting criminals. He moves on to Parkland in Florida, where he meets survivors of a recent school shooting who are campaigning for stricter gun ownership laws.

**10.00** **Film: Nightcrawler.** (2014) A cynical petty crook is inspired when he sees a freelance camera crew, and decides to go into business filming crime scenes and accidents, then selling the footage to news broadcasters. His determination to stay ahead of the competition leads him down a dark path as his methods become increasingly ruthless. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo and Bill Paxton.

**11.50** **Golf: Women's British Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the fourth and final day of the event, which this year is staged at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire.

**12.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. (R) **1.45** Holby City. Fletcher is shocked a face from his past and Hansen attempts to express his feelings. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjaboys. Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Cannonball Splash Hits. (R) **10.55** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **12.00** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.00** ITV News. Weather. **1.15** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.15** Catchphrase. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

**6.00** **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle, and also meets a toy poodle and a pug that came in as a pair but might be better off finding new homes separately. (R)

**6.30** **ITV News.** Weather.

**6.45** **Regional Programme.** Weather.

**7.00** **Midsomer Murders.** The murder of Midsomer resident and biscuit factory boss Eric Calder leads Barnaby and Nelson to Croydon. The pair join forces with local female detectives Birgitte Poulsen and Anna Degn in the hunt for the killer, and during the course of their investigation they discover the businessman had numerous links to the capital. Anglo-Danish collaboration originally shown to mark Midsomer's 100th episode, guest starring Ann Eleonora Jorgensen (The Killing), Birgitte Hjort Sorensen (Borgen), Sanjeev Bhaskar and Joanna Scanlan, alongside Neil Dudgeon. (R)

**9.00** **Unforgotten.** As it becomes clear the suspects are lying, Jake goes in search of Tim Finch's ex-wife to hear her version of events – and uncovers disturbing information about Chris Love's past.

**10.00** **ITV News.** Weather.

**10.20** **Carry On Forever.** A look at the golden age of the comedy franchise in the mid to late 1960s, with Amanda Barrie revealing what life was like on the set of Carry On Cleo. (R)

**11.20** **Tonight at the London Palladium.** Bradley Walsh welcomes the cast of 42nd Street to the famous stage, headed by Sheena Easton. Plus, music from Rick Astley, Imelda May and US vocalist Lea Michele. (R)

**12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.25** Location, Location. Location. (R) **4.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.30** Homes by the Med. (R)

**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**

**7.00** **Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams.** New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, where he meets an aerobatic champion.

**8.00** **Hidden Britain by Drone.** New series. Tony Robinson presents a second series of the programme that uses drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. In the first episode, he dispatches flying cameras to explore an abandoned theme park, an immense statue home and underground wine vaults belonging to billionaires. The programme also examines the secrets that Argos conceals from the eyes of its customers and contains footage of a flower farm in full bloom, which is closed to the public for 50 weeks of the year.

**9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offered is sent to a familiar place, while Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house. Guest starring Bradley Whitford (The West Wing).

**10.10** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers-quiz, inviting Sean Lock and Rob Beckett to take on Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman. (R)

**11.10** **The Shopping Centre: Artist in Residence.** Artist Rachel Maclean spends a month living in Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, and makes a film exploring happiness with the help of a large pink rabbit. Last in the series.

**12.15** **Film: Devil's Knot.** (2013) **2.15** **Film: Chevalier.** (2015) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.25** Star Boot Sale. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) **1.20** Access. **1.25** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Concluded. **2.25** Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) **3.25** Access. **3.30** Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) Concluded. **4.30** Film: Cars. (2006) **5.30** Access. **5.35** Film: Cars. (2006) Concluded.

**6.10** **Chuckie Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, bops and falls uploaded to the internet.

**6.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v India. Action from the fifth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston.

**8.00** **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.** (2003) A rogue captain and a blacksmith set sail to rescue a governor's daughter from feared supernatural pirates.

**8.00** **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.** (2003) Concluded.

**10.50** **Film: Green Lantern.** (2011) A pilot joins a galactic peacekeeping force with incredible powers and defends Earth from an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively.

**11.50** **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.

**11.55** **Film: Green Lantern.** (2011) Concluded.

**1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Autopsy: The Last Hours of Joan Rivers. (R) **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R)

## DIGITAL

## BBC Four

**7.00** BBC Proms 2018 **9.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **10.00** Entertaining the Troops **11.00** Arena: Whatever Happened to Spitting Image? **12.00** Africa's Magnificent Beasts **1.00** Timeshift: The Ladybird Books Story – The Bugs That Got Britain Reading **2.00** Arena: American Epic **3.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **4.00** Close

#### ITV2

**1.35** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05** Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) **4.10** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **9.00** Love Island: The Reunion **10.35** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

#### ITV3

**12.50** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Victoria **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** The Halcyn **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.50** Blue Murder **3.35** Road to Avonlea **5.15** Judge Judy **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

#### ITV4

**11.50** River Monsters **12.55** Monster Carp **2.00** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **4.40** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland. **11.00** Film: Payback (1999) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Payback (1999) **1.05** The Motorbike Show **2.05** The Protectors **3.20** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

#### E4

**11.30** Film: Dr Dolittle (1998) **1.10** Rude(s)h Tube Shorts **3.10** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Young Sheldon **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Escape Plan (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Rude Tube **3.10** Hollyoaks

#### Film4

**11.00** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) **2.35** Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) **4.45** Megamind (2010) **6.40** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **9.00** Victor Frankenstein (2015) **11.10** Out of the Furnace (2013) **1.25** The Rise (2012) **3.40** Close

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**Crown Gardens, CRADLEY HEATH**£1,000 pcm+Fees  
Immaculately presented modern 4 bedroom detached, conveniently located close to Haden Hill Leisure centre, public transport links including Cradley Heath train station, comprising fully fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, downstairs wc, 4 bedrooms, master en suite, family bathroom, garage and driveway, front and rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



**Audnam, AMBLECOTE** £795 pcm+Fees  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home featuring 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite. 2 Allocated parking space for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. EPC: B



**Hurst Green Road, HALESOWEN**£750 pcm+Fees  
A lovely large end terraced home in this popular area of Hurst Green featuring 3 good size bedrooms, also an additional loft room for storage/office room /games room etc, spacious lounge, kitchen/dining area with a table and chairs, modern house bathroom with shower, downstairs w.c., driveway for 2/3 cars. A property not to be missed! EPC: E



**Surfeit Hill Road, CRADLEY HEATH**£700 pcm+Fees  
A semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



**Mendip Road, HALESOWEN**£695 pcm+Fees  
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate in Halesowen/Hayley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, a large lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, house bathroom with shower off the taps, parking and garage. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



**Sweetbrier Drive, AMBLECOTE**£650 pcm+Fees  
A rather splendid 2 bedroom semi detached home. Presented to a high standard this accommodation is gas centrally heated and double glazed throughout and briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge fitted kitchen with oven & hob, 2 bedrooms, fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC: TBC



**Perivale Way, STOURBRIDGE**£625 pcm+Fees  
A fantastic 2 bedroom semi-detached house conveniently located to Merry Hill, Stourbridge & train station. This newly decorated home has entrance hallway, front lounge, kitchen/diner with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, rear garden, upstairs are 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, gas central heating and double glazing. Not to be missed! EPC: C



**Cakemore Road, ROWLEY REGIS**£595 pcm+Fees  
●● 1ST MONTH RENT HALF PRICE ●● A well presented 2 bedroom family home in this very popular location close to Rowley Regis train station & easy access to the M5. The accommodation comprises of 2 reception rooms both with fireplaces, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, garden behind the parking & off road parking to rear. EPC: D



**Coppice Road, CRADLEY HEATH**£585 pcm+Fees  
Recently refurbished to a good standard. Ideally located on the Timberbre Estate for the local primary school. This 2 double bedroom house features 1 reception room, modern kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower, covered storage area to the rear, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



**Beaumont Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH**£575 pcm+Fees  
●● UNDERGOING SOME REDECORATION AND NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT ●● This terraced property is conveniently located close to Blackheath Town Centre and Rowley Regis train station. The house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, lean to, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



**Highland House, HALESOWEN**£550 pcm+Fees  
Located Just Off Long Lane is this very large, 1st floor flat comprising Of: 2 double bedrooms, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, modern bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, allocated parking, communal gardens. EPC: D



**Hammersley Close, HALESOWEN**£550 pcm+Fees  
●● COMPLETELY RE-DECORATED AND NEW CARPETS UPSTAIRS ●● Located in the very quiet cul-de-sac, close to local buses to Halesowen/Cradley Heath and Merry Hill, also close to Cradley Heath Train Station, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: gas central heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower off the taps, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



**Bloomfield Street West, HALESOWEN**£545 pcm+Fees  
A traditional style terraced property in this most convenient location close to Halesowen Town Centre, local shopping, schools and public transport facilities. This property offers a lounge, dining kitchen, cellar, 2 bedrooms and bathroom to the 1st floor. Also benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and a private rear garden. EPC: D



**Tudor Vale, SEDGLEY** £530 pcm+Fees  
●● FULL RE-DECORATION AND NEW CARPETS TO BE LAID ●● Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews house which will benefit from a new internal re-decoration before the commencement of a new tenancy and new carpets, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen (NO COOKER), downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, paved rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: C



**King Street, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILLS**£525 pcm+Fees  
Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This unfurnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**Whitehall Court, HALESOWEN**£525 pcm+Fees  
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with a new cooker and fridge freezer, new flooring in the kitchen, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower. 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure gated parking to rear of property. EPC: C



**Wordsley Court, WORDSLEY**£495 pcm+Fees  
●● 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE ●● 1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



**Clifton Street, STOURBRIDGE**£450 pcm+Fees  
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the ground floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, on road parking. EPC: D



**The Breeze, BRIERLEY HILL**£425 pcm+Fees  
A delightful modern 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment in this convenient position within easy distance of local schools, shops, road and public transport links. Open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom, bathroom with shower (OFF THE BEDROOM). Allocated parking for 1 car. EPC: B



**Warwick Close, OLDBURY** £425 pcm+Fees  
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed and all electric heating. The accommodation features lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, front garden. EPC: C



**Apperley Way, HALESOWEN**£425 pcm+Fees  
Not to be missed! A recently redecorated 1st floor apartment in a well sort after location. This 1 bed apartment features a modern fitted kitchen, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower and bedroom with built in wardrobes. The property is also going to benefit from brand new carpets and new windows. Within walking distance is Cradley Heath train station. EPC: E

## PROPERTY



## A well-presented three-bedroom detached property also has a garage and extra parking

With well-presented accommodation, this three-bedroom detached house in Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, Dudley, is set well back from the road.

Having a garage and additional parking, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £174,950.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, garage, parking and

**WOODSETTON**  
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gardens. This home is situated in a well-established and popular residential area, close to a wide range of amenities and within easy reach of Sedgley and Dudley together with access to surrounding centres.

It has double glazing and gas central heating and the garage is

set at the rear. The entrance hall has stairs off and a cloakroom cupboard. The lounge has a brick fireplace, while the dining room has a French window to the rear garden.

The kitchen has a range of wall and base units and includes a Belling electric hob, with extractor hood over, and a store/pantry off.

The property has a detached garage situated at the rear .

**Contact Wakeman Estate Agents on 01384 459999.**



## Renovation project sees former pub extended and transformed into a spacious stylish home

The former Albion Inn, in Albion Street, Wall Heath, has been superbly renovated, vastly extended and considerably improved, with such style and a bespoke finish where no expense has been spared, undertaken by local builders Avey & Son Limited in 2014.

The distinctive outer appearance still echos the property's heyday as a local public house, but internally it is far removed from its origins and has been totally transformed into

**WALL HEATH**  
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a lavish four/five bedroom family home. It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £550,000.

The main accommodation is set over three floors and there is also large cellarge adding to overall impressive square footage. This is truly, a property that needs to be viewed to appreciate the

extent and size and versatility of the layout which currently encompasses a work from home office or fifth bedroom depending on usage needs and there are two outstanding garages (one with WC).

The ground floor takes its influence from loft apartments being open-plan in nature with exposed brickwork parts and detailed structural steelwork.

**Call The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 to book a viewing.**



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Manufacturers of all Concrete

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### LBT Fencing

All types of quality  
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Plus decking,  
slabbing &  
block paving

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YOU FILL EM WE MT EM

## Gardening

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• Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes

• Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal

• Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios

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N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)

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FREE QUOTES & SPECIAL RATES FOR OAP'S

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• Patios and Drives Jetwashed

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• Over grown gardens cleared

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WE BASE OUR WORK ON QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY



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No Job too Small, No Job too Big

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#### SPECIAL OFFERS

- on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
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24 hour service  
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A10167121.

If found please contact  
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Stourbridge's longest established  
Family Run Mobility Store  
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4 berth, 2004, Motor Mover,  
shower, toilet, central heating,  
fridge, oven, cooker, full  
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caravan cover, many extras.  
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400 / 2

2000 Millennium Edition,  
serviced and fully equipped  
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excellent condition, recent  
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Two bedrooms, en-suite, DG,  
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Very good condition.

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With large decking, on quiet  
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Two fishing pools.  
Dog Friendly. No age limit.  
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2 beds, bright open plan, well looked after,  
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Castle view 5\* Caravan Holiday Home Park  
- Ultimate Coastal retreat  
Minutes from glorious sandy beaches &  
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Call Sue or Richard 01766 780328  
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2011 LWB 2.00, converted  
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fittings from leading suppliers,  
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### BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday  
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that their holiday costs are fully  
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### mind, body & soul

### Massage

Mobile deep tissue  
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## what's on

### Antique & Collectors Market

**ANTIQUA/COLLECTORS FAIR**  
Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 5th  
August and 2nd Sept EST 1979  
Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 19th  
Aug. Refreshments. 0121 550 4381

### Markets

**STOURBRIDGE  
CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge  
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Open every Wednesday  
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07957 399964

## 3 Home & Services

### In Your Garden

**C B SHEDS  
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We supply & fit. Free quotes.  
Call: 01922 720270  
We also supply sleepers and decking

### In Your Garden

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That the Business  
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their responsibility to inform the  
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accuracies on the first day of publica-  
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to carefully consider all of their options  
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**WANTED**  
NINTENDO SEGA  
OLD GAMES AND  
CONSOLES

Nintendo Sega, Atari, Commodore,  
etc.  
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tlers, Transformers, etc. Comics,  
graphic novels, football shirts.

Cash Paid.  
07866 691968.

### Loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require profes-  
sional advice before entering into  
obligations.

## specialists at your service

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**QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT**  
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### A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST

Digital Aerials Fitted  
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AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
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For great business  
results call  
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**PORTWAY  
FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
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Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
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Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
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garden. 25 years experience. Call  
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To check that when  
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is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas  
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Regulations 1998 to carry out  
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**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid  
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ments. Also removals undertaken.  
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13 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
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## t.v. / home entertainment

### Sales

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**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
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Bill - TV Link

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## Pets & Animals

### Equestrian Corner

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have the required Passport infor-  
mation, this is a legal requirement.

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

## Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**PEDIGREE** Golden Labrador Pups,  
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07507 697893. (Derbyshire)

## 5 Business & Farming

### Business Opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering into any  
obligations.

## 6 Property

### Overseas Property

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independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments.

## Properties Wanted

**Yes! HOMEBUYERS**

**We will buy your house fast!**

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!  
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**SMART ROOMS TO  
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Single En Suite Room £85 p.w.  
Double Room £95 p.w.  
Prices inclusive of Bills  
No DSS. 2 weeks deposit.  
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**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accom-  
modation Agencies Act 1953, for an  
Agency to charge a fee simply for  
the registration of your require-  
ments and/or supplying particulars  
of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments/contracts.

**BURROWS CROFT**, single person,  
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**SELL IT FAST  
SELL IT LOCAL**  
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Wanted**

**EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER**  
requires employment, all kinds of  
brickwork. 07341 021774.

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Motoring

Cars Over £1500

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**MAZDA MX5**

07 plate

new MoT,

full Mazda service history.

59K miles,

lovely metallic blue,

£3,950 ono.

07855 370328.



**BMW Z4 2.0**

2006, Immaculate condition, only 22,000 miles, two owners from new, recent full valet inside and out, leather interior, electric roof.  
**£7,750 ono**  
**01785 211090.**



**MAZDA MX5**

07 plate

new MoT,

full Mazda service history.

59K miles,

lovely metallic blue,

**£3,950 ono.**

**07855 370328.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**MERCEDES ELEGANCE  
A150**

2006.

Family owned from new.

Full Service History.

MoT. Only 10,200 miles.

Mint condition.

First to see will buy.

**£3,500 ono.**

**01902 826690.**



**PEUGEOT 407 1.6 HDi ST  
SALOON**

2009, silver, diesel, 88,000 miles, air con, electric sunroof, CD/radio, alloys, MoT, EW, cruise control, alarm, ABS, reliable car, in great condition.

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**VAUXHALL TIGRA B  
1.4 EXCLUSIVE**

Full leather.

2007.

12 months MoT.

Immaculate.

Only 26, 000 miles.

Second lady driver.

**£2,600.**

**07938 509811.**

**Cars Under £1500**

**EXCELLENT  
CONDITION**

**FORD MONDEO LX 1.8**

2006.

12 months MoT.

Low mileage.

Silver.

E/W. Air Con. CD player.

Alloy wheels.

**Bargain at £795 ono.**

**07561 711844.**



**MAZDA MX5**

2004, 59,000 genuine miles.

silver, cambelt done.

Lovely car

**£1,495.**

**Telephone 07814 544315.**



**PEUGEOT 307**

2007 reg, MOT March 2019,  
66K miles, drives very well.

**£895**

**07453 046600.**



**TOYOTA RAV**

02 reg., silver, 119,000 miles,  
MOT end November, air con,  
central locking.

**£1,200 ono**

**07773 681375.**



**VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB  
1.6**

5-dr, 2002, 52 plate, blue,  
98,000 miles, MOT, PAS,  
aircon, CD player, very well  
maintained, immaculate  
condition.

**£695**

**07939 498854.**



**VW POLO 1.2 E**

3 door hatchback.

2004. Red. Petrol. Manual.

MoT May 19.

119,000 miles.

Good condition.

Great first car.

**£845 ono.**

**07871 521216/01562 911634.**

**RARE CAR**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA  
CONVERTIBLE BERTONE**  
1.8 Engine, P Reg., green  
colour, alloys, CD, radio, two  
new tyres, 77,000 miles.  
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## MOTORING

# TT facelift for 20th anniversary

Audi has chosen the 20th anniversary of its TT to reveal the model's latest evolution – a facelifted third-generation model.

The updated sports car receives a mild redesign, improved equipment levels and a new TT S Black Edition to sit at the top of the range.

To celebrate two decades of TT, there will also be a TT 20 Years model – limited to just 999 models worldwide.

It's set to feature a raft of unique styling details, but Audi isn't revealing yet how many will be available for the UK – or how much it will cost.

Elsewhere in the range, the TT now receives Audi's new naming structure. 40 TFSI and 45 TFSI models offer up 194bhp and 245bhp respectively – both from 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol engines.

Potent TT S models sit above these, with power set at 302bhp. That's actually a slight decrease over the previous car's 306bhp, thanks to a petrol particulate filter to reduce exhaust emissions.

However, with a 20Nm improvement in torque, the new TT S will sprint from 0-60mph a tenth of a second quicker than previously. Times for the Coupe and Roadster are set at 4.3 and 4.6 seconds respectively.



Celebrating 20 years of the iconic Audi TT with an updated third-generation model of the Coupe and Roadster

Its diesel-powered TT 'Ultra' has, however, been axed.

The '40' and '45' models are available with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic – S models only come exclusively with the latter. In terms of drivetrain, '40' models are front-wheel drive only, S models are only available with quattro four-wheel drive, while '45' models split the difference and offer a choice of either.

On the styling front, it really is a case of 'blink and you'll miss it'.

There's a new grille with a 3D

effect and a single-piece frame, while Audi's Matrix LED lights are now available. There are also OLED (organic LED) rear lights. A selection of new alloy wheels completes the package, alongside three new paint colours – Turbo Blue, Pulse Orange and Cosmos Blue.

The new model is likely to carry over existing trim levels but with improvements to spec. An upgraded version of the once-groundbreaking 'Virtual Cockpit' will now feature an optional Sport display, showing drivers

their G-force, engine and torque graphs.

All TTs will get automatic headlights and wipers, drive select, heated mirrors and a multifunction steering wheel, which on most models will be the sole controller for the superb infotainment system.

Audi has not revealed pricing for the facelifted TT, but expect a small price increase over the outgoing model's £28,855 starting price. The facelifted TT will arrive in showrooms towards the end of this year.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Grandland X Range: Urban: 44.1 (6.4) – 64.2 (4.4), Extra-urban: 57.6 (4.9) – 74.3 (3.8), Combined: 51.4 (5.5) – 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 128 – 108g/km.

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Allen spends his time coaching the sport he loves



Allen with daughter, Dominique, who is a Great Britain and England international



Allen challenges for the ball



Always popular with the fans

# Ace Allen has lived his life through basketball

**PLAYING** in front of 5,000 fans, winning two British Basketball League play-off titles and earning five England caps for good measure.

For someone who didn't start playing basketball until his teenage years – because he was embarrassed about his height – Clive Allen enjoyed a truly stellar career.

Growing up in the West Midlands, Allen began his sporting life playing football and trying to blend in with his classmates. But his talent would eventually help him win a scholarship in America, leading to a 15-year career with the Birmingham Bullets when the sport was really rocking in the region.

"When I was at school I hated being tall and I didn't want to be involved in anything that showed that," said Allen. "At Hillcrest School, in Netherton, there weren't too many black people and I didn't want to stand out any more, so I didn't start playing basketball until I left."

"Mike Landell, who was a Great Britain basketball player from Dudley, was the person who got me into the sport. He encouraged me to go for my first trial when I was about 16 to 17."

## Redundant

"But Dave Fisher, who was the coach at the time, said I wasn't good enough for the senior squad and I was also too old for the under-17s. I was told to come back in about a year."

Allen is now head coach at West Bromwich Albion Basketball Academy, which comes under the Sporting Albion umbrella and is directly linked with the football team. The 56-year-old has eaten, lived and breathed basketball since deciding to take the sport seriously and has come a long way from working in a factory.

"I was working at Grazebrook Foundries in Dudley, but was made redundant," he said. "I started getting back into sport again and it was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports. I started playing in the Sandwell Central League for Sandwell Basketball Club."

"I was playing in the Central League when the coach from Bullets saw me and took me down for an-

## SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

**"It was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports"**

other trial – and then offered me a contract. The first season I probably played, what felt like, five minutes, but every time I came on the crowd loved it because of the effort and hustle I put in."

Allen's efforts eventually saw him land a scholarship to play at Northwest Nazarene University, in Idaho, which was a Christian College. He also studied to become a social worker. But his American adventure was cut short after his wife fell pregnant with his daughter, Dominique, who herself is now a Great Britain and England international.

"My wife wanted our baby to be born in the UK so we came back from US a little early," said Allen, who played most of his career as a power forward or at centre.

"I started playing for the Bullets again and playing in America was such a learning curve and it had transformed my game. At the time, in BBL, a lot of British players sat on the bench because it was taken over by Americans, like Premiership football today really."

"But we had a really strong team in the 90s, with Nigel Lloyd, Fab Flournoy, Tony Dorsey, Tony Simms and Reggie Kirk. But one of the main things was we always had a really good relationship with each other and also the fans."

Allen – who enjoyed two stints with the Bullets, from 1985-87 and then 1988-2001 – first won the BBL play-off finals in 1995/96, but said the second title in 1997/98, also at Wembley Arena, was the pinnacle of his playing career.

"A year later, however, the squad was left with just five senior players. But the lack of resources once

again made the team a stronger unit. Winning the finals in 1998 was my greatest moment but a few years later, when it didn't work out with some of the American players, it just left of five of us. That was Lloyd, Kirk, Simms, Flournoy and myself. The Bullets also eventually went full circle because when Australian Harry Wrbleski took over he wanted to take the game from leisure centres and into arenas."

Allen's career was eventually ended due to a condition called neurosarcoidosis, which affected his spine. But once his playing days were over he was able to refocus and become one of the Black Country's most prominent coaches.

After enjoying one last hurrah with the Black Country Bears, winning the title after dropping down a division, he briefly joined Simms as coach at the Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005.

He became assistant coach at the Milton Keynes Lions under Lloyd, then general manager for the Birmingham Panthers, again under Lloyd, during their only season, from 2007/08. But a conversation with Jamie Bunch, sporting director of the Albion Foundation in 2009, that really shaped his coaching career.

## Contact

"I dropped down a division and played for the Black Country Bears – and won a title – but I had been coaching all the way through and launched my own Big Sky Basketball academy."

"I worked with more than 70 schools in one year covering Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen."

"Jamie Bunch then got in contact and wanted to follow the Sporting Lisbon way, where there were other teams affiliated with the club. I used to run basketball sessions at Sir Gilbert Cloughton, which would end with a big tournament but they wanted to set up a team and take it more seriously."

"I wanted to push it too and through my connections at the Bullets I met Jamie."

"We only had two teams when we started at under-16 and under-18. Now we have 12, which goes from under-14s up to the men's, which are now linked with Wolverhampton University."

"I also coach at Dudley College and Sandwell College too, so there is a bigger network for basketball players."

## Bilbao bound Gavin's hometown warm-up

FRANKIE Gavin warms up for his European Welterweight Title fight later this year with a six round contest in his home city in September.

The 32-year-old Birmingham boxer takes on Kerman Lejarraga in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion, steps up camp, he will take part in a warm-up bout at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway, on September 16. Gavin said: "Camp is well under way and I'm determined. Lejarraga is my main focus but it's important to get back in the ring, blow off a few cobwebs and make a statement. November will soon come round and I'm going to Bilbao to bring the European Title home."

The four-fight dinner show, 'Bilbao Bound' will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, Central Area Heavyweight Champion, Kash Ali, and Walsall super welterweight, Levi Ferguson.

Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved. Call 07900 741 617

## Davis takes on role of managing misfits

WOLVES have hired ex-Crewe boss Steve Davis to manage their fringe players as they look to find them deals away from the club.

Dominic Iorfa, Jordan Graham, Phil Ofose-Ayeh, Michal Zyro and Ethan Ebanks-Landell are training separately from the first team in a 'group three' section at Compton Park.

Wolves are working to, ideally, find permanent moves for the players. Loan moves look the more likely scenarios for most of the group, which also contains Paul Gladdon, Joe Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Deslandes as well as some of the older under-23 players.

Boyhood Wolves fan Davis came close to landing the top job at Molineux back in 2013 when he was interviewed for the then-vacant head coach role after Dean Saunders was sacked. Davis was at one point odds-on favourite to get the job but missed out to Kenny Jackett.

It's understood that he is working full-time at Compton Park overseeing the group having been handed a temporary contract.

## New boss kicks off Casuals campaign

WOLVERHAMPTON Casuals boss Dean Gill hopes to hit the ground running when the West Midlands League season kicks off.

Gill made the switch from Wednesday at the end of the last campaign and the first batch of Premier Division fixtures have handed his new charges an opening-day clash at home to Wellington. After a trip to Wem, a visit to Tividale and a home clash with his former charges follow.

Gill said: "We are pleased with the opening set of fixtures. We start with a home game which is always good and hopefully we can get a good start. If we can get a decent start I would like to see us challenging in the top six."

Last season's Premier Division runners-up Tividale kick-off at Smethwick Rangers and, as well as the clash with Casuals, meet Black Country Rangers in the opening month. Tivi boss Dave King said: "It's a tough opening month, there is no doubt about that."

Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Community.





HALESOWEN TOWN		
Aug 11	Lowestoft Tn.....	H
Aug 14	Banbury Utd.....	A
Aug 18	Kettering Tn.....	A
Aug 25	Biggleswade Tn.....	A
Aug 28	Stourbridge.....	A
Sep 1	St Neots Tn.....	H
Sep 15	King's Lynn Tn.....	H
Sep 29	Bedworth Utd.....	A
Oct 6	Rushall Olympic.....	H
Oct 13	Leiston.....	A
Oct 16	Coalville Tn.....	A
Oct 20	Needham Mkt.....	H
Nov 3	Royston Tn.....	A
Nov 10	Alvechurch.....	H
Nov 17	St Ives Tn.....	A
Nov 20	Barwell.....	H
Nov 24	Rushden & Diamonds.....	A
Dec 1	Stratford Tn.....	H
Dec 8	Tamworth.....	H
Dec 15	Hitchin Tn.....	A
Dec 22	Lowestoft Tn.....	A
Dec 26	Stourbridge.....	H
Dec 29	Banbury Utd.....	H
Jan 1	Redditch Utd.....	A
Jan 5	Coalville Tn.....	H
Jan 12	Alvechurch.....	A
Jan 19	St Ives Tn.....	H
Jan 26	Barwell.....	A
Feb 2	Royston Tn.....	H
Feb 9	Needham Mkt.....	A
Feb 16	Stratford Tn.....	A
Feb 23	Rushden & Diamonds.....	H
Mar 2	Tamworth.....	A
Mar 9	Hitchin Tn.....	H
Mar 16	Rushall Olympic.....	A
Mar 23	Leiston.....	H
Mar 30	King's Lynn Tn.....	A
Apr 6	Bedworth Utd.....	H
Apr 13	Kettering Tn.....	H
Apr 20	Biggleswade Tn.....	A
Apr 22	Redditch Utd.....	H
Apr 27	St Neots Tn.....	A

STOURBRIDGE		
Aug 11	Barwell.....	A
Aug 13	Stratford Tn.....	H
Aug 18	Rushden & Diamonds.....	H
Aug 25	Alvechurch.....	A
Aug 28	Halesowen Tn.....	H
Sep 1	King's Lynn Tn.....	A
Sep 15	St Ives Tn.....	A
Sep 29	Needham Mkt.....	H
Oct 6	Redditch Utd.....	A
Oct 13	Royston Tn.....	H
Oct 15	Bedworth Utd.....	H
Oct 20	Biggleswade Tn.....	A
Nov 3	Lowestoft Tn.....	H
Nov 10	Banbury Utd.....	A
Nov 17	Hitchin Tn.....	H
Nov 20	Kettering Tn.....	A
Nov 24	Tamworth.....	H
Dec 1	St Neots Tn.....	A
Dec 8	Leiston.....	A
Dec 15	Coalville Tn.....	H
Dec 22	Barwell.....	H
Dec 26	Halesowen Tn.....	A
Dec 29	Stratford Tn.....	A
Jan 1	Rushall Olympic.....	H
Jan 5	Bedworth Utd.....	A
Jan 12	Banbury Utd.....	H
Jan 19	Hitchin Tn.....	A
Jan 26	Kettering Tn.....	H
Feb 2	Lowestoft Tn.....	A
Feb 9	Biggleswade Tn.....	H
Feb 16	St Neots Tn.....	H
Feb 23	Tamworth.....	A
Mar 2	Leiston.....	H
Mar 9	Coalville Tn.....	A
Mar 16	Redditch Utd.....	H
Mar 23	Royston Tn.....	A
Mar 30	St Ives Tn.....	H
Apr 6	Needham Mkt.....	A
Apr 13	Rushden & Diamonds.....	A
Apr 20	Alvechurch.....	H
Apr 22	Rushall Olympic.....	H
Apr 27	King's Lynn Tn.....	H

## Kirstie gloves up for pro boxing career



Kirstie Bavington with Mayor Councillor Alan Taylor

A PE teacher and former footballer from Dudley is proving a knockout after donning gloves to become a professional boxer.

Kirstie Bavington, who works during the day at Castle High School, met the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, to reveal her dreams of working her way to the top and inspiring others along the way.

The 25-year-old welterweight has had two pro fights so far and remains unbeaten. She drew a hard-fought debut bout with Bulgarian veteran

Borislava Goranova at Villa Park in May before beating Elaine Greenan on points at The Venue in Dudley last month.

Kirstie's first love was football, breaking into Brierley Hill Bullets boys team at the age of seven before going on to play for women's teams at Wolves, West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City, Coventry City, Crystal Palace and AFC Wimbledon.

But she has hung up her boots to focus on boxing, with a third bout planned for September.

## Hales stay third as rain halts derby

THE derby between Halesowen and table-toppers Kidderminster was interrupted by the weather on Saturday, resulting in both sides being frustrated with an abandoned game.

The Kidderminster total of 205 for eight, in 55 overs, was dominated by a sixth wicket partnership of 115 between Simon Greenall (70 not out) and Connor Smith (63) who came together at 32 for five. Eddie Rhodes (four for 63) took four of the first five wickets to fall and Masharraf Shazad took the last three for 45.

Halesowen's reply was reduced to 42 overs and they had reached 64 for four, in the 17th over, when the match was abandoned.

Hales remain third in the table and play Bridgnorth, who are fifth, this weekend.

The second string trekked to Pershore only to see the heavens open after the home side moved to 164-4. Nathan Hines took two wickets before the game was abandoned due to a thunderstorm. They remain second in the table.

The thirds maintained their position at the top of the Worcestershire Cricket League division four after amassing 244 all out with Siddesh Chavan (55) Shoaib Farooque (47) and Jack Roberson (55). With the ball, Carl Bust (2-2) and Naim Luhar (2-28) ensured an 11 point haul on a rain affected day.

The fourth team clocked up 254-8 thanks to Haseeb (75) and Jack Patchett (52) but the game was abandoned.

## Ellis revved up to ride for Heathens

ELLIS PERKS was due to represent Cradley again in last night's (Wednesday's) National Trophy group decider against rivals Birmingham at Perry Barr.

The Worcestershire-born racer made his full British debut with the Heathens in 2015 and was one of the league's stand-out improvers. He's now back for their big derby against the Brummies and was keen to help Motor Market Heathens get the away win needed to book their place in the National Trophy final against Mildenhall. The 21-year-old rode for Plymouth at Perry Barr last week and scored eight points from four rides.

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# SYLVAN SIGNS FOR THE YELTZ

**EX-WOLVES** striker Sylvan Ebanks-Blake is joining the Yeltz, after Halesowen Town beat several clubs for his signature.

The 32-year-old forward became a firm favourite at Molineux where he scored 61 goals in 177 appearances.

He left the Wolves in 2013 when he moved to Ipswich Town, and more recently he has been playing for AFC Telford.

Delighted manager John Hill said: "To be able to attract a player with such quality and experience as Sylvan is a pure signal of intent for the Yeltz to the other teams in the league, especially when you look at the clubs he has turned down.

"When a coup like this comes along it really does make the hundreds of phone calls that Matt Clarke and myself make each week worthwhile."

Yeltz have also completed the signing of Ivor Lawton. The ex-Coventry midfielder scored twice in 15 appearances for Yeltz last season.

Lawton was on target, along with veteran Lee Hughes and an own goal, as Yeltz beat Bromsgrove Sporting in a friendly at The Grove on Saturday.

The Southern League Premier Central Division season kicks off next Saturday, August 11, with Halesowen hosting Lowestoft Town (see fixtures top left). Meanwhile, the trip to local rivals Stourbridge has been switched from August Bank Holiday Monday to the following night, August 28 (7.45). The No.9 Derby has been put back due to Stourbridge Cricket Club being in action.



Sylvan Ebanks-Blake

## Medal success for TKD teens



Instructor and TKD World Master Vince Farquharson, centre, with Lauren Pope and Tore Lamont

AMATEUR squad Dudley Tae Kwon-Do came home with three medals from the Tae Kwon-Do International World Championships at Arena Birmingham.

More than 2,000 competitors from 22 took part in the two-day event.

Dudley's 18-year-old Lauren Pope returned to the club with a silver medal in the Middle-weight Women's Green Belt category. While

18-year-old Tore Lamont returned with a bronze medal in the Blue Belt Patterns and, after four tough fights, a bronze in the Middle-weight Men's Blue Belt category.

Instructor of Dudley Tae Kwon-Do, and head instructor of West Midlands Tae Kwon-Do, World Master Vince Farquharson said "I am over the moon to see two young fighters coming home with some medals."



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